

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 18, 1992

Published Since 1877

## Work among Africa Muslims tough despite responsiveness

By Craig Bird

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — "Easier" is a relative term, especially when it refers to Christian ministries to Muslims in east Africa.

More Muslims are converting to Christianity in east Africa but such switches are still unusual. And most of the time they're far from easy.

The currents of Islam run deep through the cultural streams of the Kenya-Tanzania coast. A converted Muslim remains a reason for special celebration in the Christian community. Social and economic persecution — and often physical abuse — of such converts remains very real.

Mamburi, a small town on the northern coast of Kenya, is a good example. "Jesus is the Savior of the world but we're defeated in this place," admitted a weary and discouraged Sam Charo, lay leader of a Baptist effort to plant a church in Mamburi. The handful of Christians have been driven physically more than half a mile from the town and "the elders have given us a big problem in our life," Charo said. "We really want them to know about Jesus but we haven't won anyone who's a Muslim."

But Charo and thousands of other Christians are determined to keep on trying. "The way to bring Muslims to Christianity is the way of love," said Rockmass Yaa, a young Baptist pastor in Malindi, Kenya. "I don't struggle with them to become Christian. I share the gospel with them in love — so it is not easy for them to get angry."

"We need to know about (Muslims) as well as they know themselves," added Daniel Mahimbo, a former Muslim who directs the stewardship and evangelism department of the Baptist Convention of Tanzania. "Some of my relatives don't know I eat pork — and I won't eat it in front of them. When you tell them you love them they want to see action. It may take a long time for them to believe us but that's the way."

Occasional conflicts do occur but such incidents — despite grabbing publicity — are on the fringes of interaction between Christians and Muslims. Typical relationships are polite and civil. Friendships often run deep and span decades.

Most Muslims who haven't heard the Christian gospel or reject it are good, moral people whose ethnic-tribal identity is interwoven with Islam. They're not overtly antagonistic to Christianity — they just don't see any need to adopt a "white man's religion" so foreign

to their culture.

"If you go to war with a resistant people then they'll war back," pointed out Clay Coursey, a veteran Southern Baptist missionary church planter. "But you can share your faith if you care enough to learn what topics to avoid because they make Muslims so angry they won't listen, and what subjects are open."

Most African Christians and missionaries agree that confrontational, overly aggressive evangelism among Muslims often intensifies resistance instead of knocking down barriers.

"We have found mass meetings ineffective among the Digo (a tribe more than 97% Muslim)," explained Gary Morgan, a Conservative Baptist missionary in Kenya. "Rallies provide a focal point for opposition."

Muslims who attend openly evangelistic rallies often come for one of two reasons. Most with sincere questions about the validity of Christianity "want to see healings," a Tanzania pastor said. But others come simply to learn about Christianity in order to better defend Islam. Some make a public profession of faith in Christ only to begin arguing with the pastor when the group of new believers meets for counseling after the service.

The most common argument is the description of Jesus as "the Son of God." Educated Muslims know the Koran, the holy book of Islam, teaches that Jesus was born to a virgin mother named Mary, lived a perfect life, and will return, first to defeat an evil dictator (much like the antichrist of Revelation), and then assign all men their eternal destinies at the final judgment.

But mention of "Son of God" is a sure way to terminate any discussion because "to a Muslim that term means God had sexual intercourse with Mary," Coursey added. "They consider it a blasphemy against Allah to say he could have a son in the human manner. We don't mean it that way but that's what they hear. We need to find other ways to express the spiritual truth without making them so angry they won't listen."

Until Muslims understand what he means, Coursey uses the Swahili phrase for "power of God" instead of son. "Jesus was born by the 'uwezo' of God," Coursey explained. "He was born to a human mother through the power of God, because of the power of God, and with the power of God.

That means he 'is' the power of God. Yet because he is the son of Mary he is also human — he is both God and man."

Another major flashpoint is the Trinity. Muslims focus on the "three" instead of the "one" in the "three-in-one" definition of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They feel Christians worship multiple gods instead of "the one true God."

But while the New Testament can be a battleground, the Old Testament can be a meeting ground. Many Old Testament scriptures are included in the Koran. The Koran comments many times about Jesus. "You have to use what the Koran says as a starting point," one Christian said. "You can show them what it says about Isa ben Miriam (Jesus, son of Mary) then ask, 'Why do you not believe this?'"

There's also much to admire in the lifestyle of committed Muslims that Christians can compliment. "If we could pray as much as they do maybe we could be successful," noted Benson Charo, assistant pastor at Msabaha Baptist Church in Kenya. Muslim religious training also is often far ahead of Christians. "If we educated our people like the Muslims do we'd have so

many Baptists we'd have to run them off because we wouldn't have room," joked Tanzania missionary Betty Bedenbaugh, now retired.

Next, the differences of the two religions can be examined and explained. If the conversation remains cordial most Muslims will participate. "Islam is a religion of education and deep thought," Coursey pointed out. "Their tradition includes a willingness to pursue ideas and debate differences. They will listen to us if we will listen to them."

Yet many Christians feel it's unnecessary to witness to devout Muslims or are afraid to risk it. "Some people feel if someone is faithful in their religion then we should leave them alone — but that's nonsense," Mahimbo declared. "I believe Jesus is the only way to heaven and that's why I left Islam."

"We pray we're at the point of an inverse pyramid," Morgan said. "Once there's a large enough visible Christian community so (Muslims) see they don't have to reject their culture and their tribe if they leave Islam, we'll have real acceleration." Until then, converts will still face divorce, severed family ties, and ruined economic pros-

pects. They'll continue to be seen as rejecting the entire community, not just Islam.

Someday, perhaps that acceleration could become an explosion.

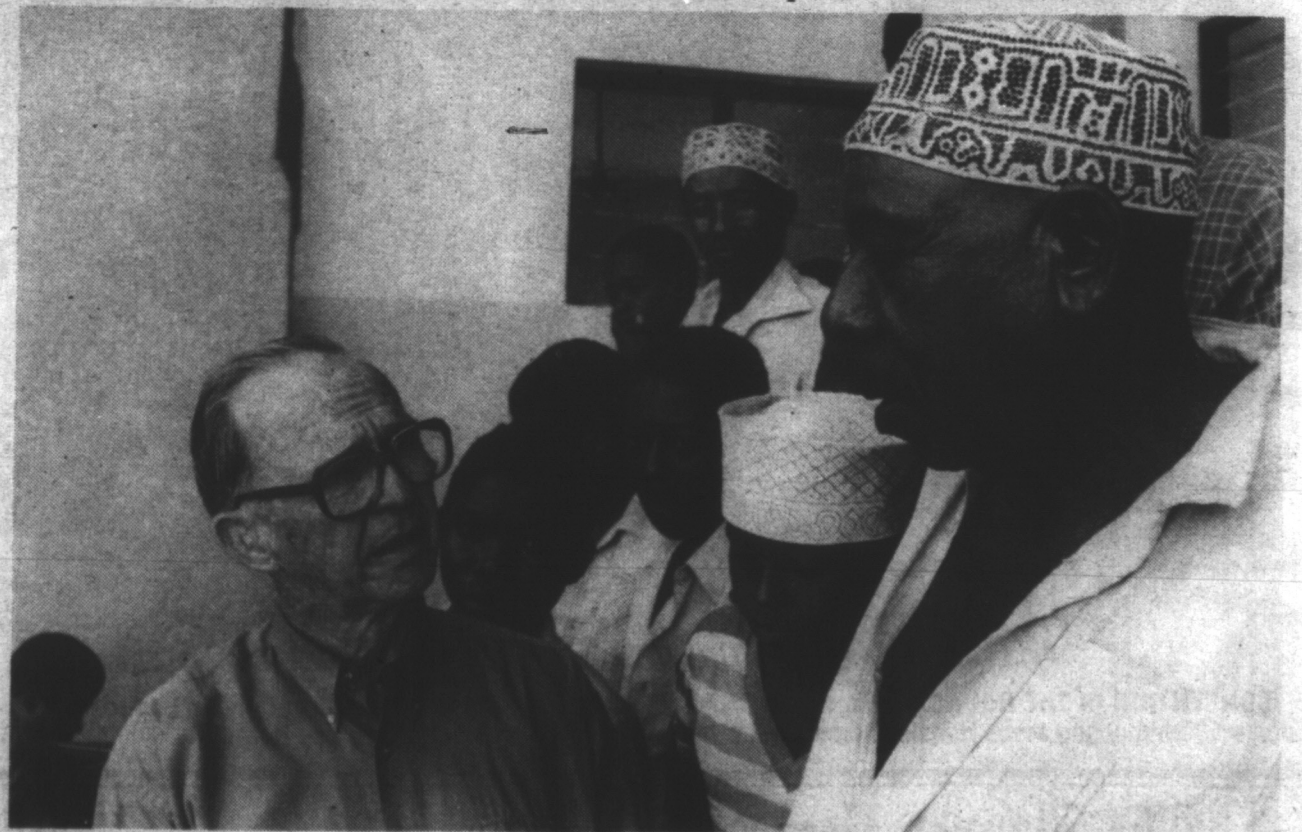
Southern Baptist medical missionaries Sam and Ginny Cannata served four years on the island of Zanzibar before transferring to Ethiopia. Zanzibar is probably the most intense Islamic stronghold in east Africa. They spent those years working on relationships, respecting the culture, and loving both verbally and in action.

Yet the frustration of minimal response to the gospel left them feeling defeated many times. "We had to accept that God's timetable is not our timetable and his ways aren't always our ways," explained Cannata, a 34-year veteran of missions in Africa.

"But one morning I found comfort in an unexpected place when I read Isaiah 37 about the Lord killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. God very plainly reminded me, 'I can save 185,000 people just as easily.' We're confident that someday, in a short period of time, 185,000 people on the island of Zanzibar will become Christian."

When that happens, "easier" might really get easier.

Bird writes for FMB.



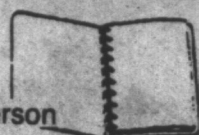
**PERSECUTION A RISK** — Charles Bedenbaugh (left) talks to an elder in a mosque in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where Bedenbaugh began serving as a Southern Baptist missionary in 1960. Four years later, the first Muslim he saw publicly profess faith in Jesus went home to face his father trying to knife him. The young convert lost his job and traveled 1,000 miles to find

work, Bedenbaugh recalled in an interview before the veteran missionary died of cancer last year. Three decades of loyal witness have made a difference in entrenched Muslim areas of east Africa, but a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ there is still taken quite seriously. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



## Baptists rev their engines in Indy

It called for a fast start at the gate, and in Crossover Indianapolis, Baptists roared off in a witnessing blitz in the streets and homes of the city. Last count had upwards of 2,000 involved and over 1,000 had received Christ. The Pastors Conference and Woman's Missionary Union were off and running by Sunday afternoon. It was clear; Baptists love missions and outreach and will be involved in it.

The convention began Tuesday with Vice President Dan Quayle taking the lead. Faith, family, and freedom quickly brought forth 10 standing ovations. We believe in all three of those also. "Jesus, Jesus, there is just something about that Name," was sung with evangelistic zeal ere President Morris Chapman, using a gavel which has been used in every convention since 1872, gavelled us into session. Later he used another gavel from the bedpost of Adoniram Judson, given to the SBC in 1935.

Registration had climbed to 17,715 by election time. Bob Hamblin, Tupelo, nominated Nelson Price, Jerry Clower nominated Jess Moody, and Joel Gregory nominated Ed Young. It was abundantly clear on Sunday night at the Pastors Conference that Young would be elected. The Laurel native received 62% of the votes. Kosciusko's

favorite, Morris Chapman, declared him to be our president for the coming year. Chapman presided with fairness and exhibited kindness and humor in the process.

Engines were purring with the usual efficiency as Paul Pressler was placed on the Foreign Mission Board by an overwhelming majority. Down the straight-away the homosexual question was soundly condemned after some heated discussion. Again Baptists spoke plainly; homosexuality will not be condoned nor tolerated. The Freemasonry issue took the inside curve and was referred back to the Home Mission Board for study.

Jerry Clower raised the first caution flag. Get the politics out of the convention or run the risk of arousing the ire of the lay people. "There are 3,900 of ya'll (preachers) and there are 15 million of us."

Keith Parks of the Foreign Mission Board hoisted the second caution flag, blasting the convention for playing political games while the biggest opportunity ever was available. Financially we have suffered and we have fewer applicants because of the controversy, Parks said. Amens were few and the applause, polite.

All in all it was a good convention. Not everyone had his way but the majority did. Baptists, thank

God, still believe the Book, and we still believe and pray for a spiritual awakening. In the Conference of SBC Evangelists, it was pointed out that we would not have power without purity and must place ourselves at God's disposal if we are to ever experience revival.

Indiana Baptists went all out to welcome the SBC. Alvin Reid, evangelism director, said 3,100 were baptized into Indiana churches last year. Their goal was 52 new churches in 1992; the 52nd congregation began meeting June 7. Seven counties have no Southern Baptist ministries, but plans and hopes are to have congregations in each of those counties within two years.

The Home Mission Board continues to rev the engines. Larry Lewis, HMB president, noted more than 69,000 volunteered at least one week to home mission service in 1991. The Convention has averaged 1,000 church starts for 10 straight years. Lewis also said for only the fourth time in history, gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering were less than the previous year. "Missions has to be more important than that."

The convention was earlier reminded that missions, not theology, is what has held Baptists together. We will seek and find a way to do missions.

**DAY ONE:** Left Jackson in a rainstorm. Atlanta was a tad damp... and your flight leaves on the next concourse... 37 gates away. A miracle will occur when we find an airport not "under construction." Taxi and bus drivers in Indianapolis friendly... glad to see the new business.... South Carolina editor John Roberts briefed me on all the things which had taken place before I arrived.... took him three sentences. Saw Tom McEachern and Bob Campbell of the Home Mission Board.... "Remember us to Dale Hollaway".

Hoosier Dome is huge... playing field (where big Johnny Cook, Mississippi State, and the Colts labor) all cement and chairs now. Huge platform, speakers, and video screens... high security for the vice-president.... At the hotel desk had to repeat everything twice, "I have difficult time with the accent," she said. "Me too," I answered.

Went to a Baptist Press Association meeting... all editors present; carrot — raw, beans — uncooked, but it was good.... Papers, postage, and reports consumed our time. Los Angeles Times religion editor spoke on marriage and the home... excellent.... Associated Baptist Press had a dessert party (just what I needed) after the meeting. Back to the hotel and telephone.

**DAY TWO:** Hoosier Dome a marvel of door-locks, long halls, and restrooms. Huge press room with banks of telephone, computers, and a coffee bar.... Herb Hollinger runs a taut ship for Baptist Press.... Sirens, security guards everywhere as we entered just before the vice-president appeared. "Church bells are ringing in Russia... We need sanctity of marriage and the home... Stand up for the unborn who cannot stand up for themselves"... just the right words to say.... I followed him out for the announced press conference... got within 30 feet. Crowd thinning out, less than a quorum in the afternoon and not too many more there that night for an excellent Home Missions report.... Lunch featured 17,000 people released at the same time and half of them headed for my favorite fast food place.... Ordered soup and they brought a ham sandwich, which

was delicious.... Book store and exhibition hall full after lunch.... Officers elected... Jerry Clower had on the reddest jacket in town... don't wear it in the pasture, Jerry.

**DAY THREE:** Election of officers continue; Lee Porter (and only Lee Porter) was chosen for the umpteenth time as registration secretary.... Stone Brothers sang. More resolutions offered including one on the Elvis Presley stamp, and another that only the King James Version be used by the Sunday School Board.... WMU affirmed and a max of \$100,000 salary be set for agencies and institutions.... This was referred. W.A. Criswell nominated as SBC President emeritus.... on to New Orleans Seminary luncheon and the dreams of the school of providence and prayer.... Then to an afternoon Foreign Mission Board reception... hundreds crowded in.... Saw the Charles Wiggs and Becky Lambert of Korea, the Harold Matthews of the Philippines, plus Louis Myers, and the Kolbs and Whittens (Brazil and Spain) now living in Clinton.... An hour later at the Home Mission Board reception, which had the better food.... Back to convention center.... Went by the Mississippi College booth where Van Quick and Norman Gough labored.... Then to Foreign Mission Night with about 6,000 present.... Keith Parks spoke, Russell Kyzar, Costa Rica missionary, sang, hundreds responded to the invitation.

**DAY FOUR:** Estimated four or five hundred present from Mississippi.... Enjoyed the fellowship with this group.... Several press conferences with various convention officers.... Don McGregor has completed the book on Owen Cooper.... Cooper was honored among other past SBC presidents, and the "first" copy was presented to Cooper's wife Elizabeth.... Many Hoosiers expected in to hear Charles Stanley, but most messengers had heard the homeward call.... press room about empty.... Front page slogan on the Indianapolis Star: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" (II Cor 3:17). Here is a fervent prayer that the Spirit of the Lord will continue to be with us. — GH

## Committee on Committees elected

INDIANAPOLIS, June 9 — Southern Baptist Convention messengers elected 68 persons from 34 state Baptist conventions to serve on the SBC's Committee on Nominations.

Messengers to the 1993 SBC meeting in Houston will vote on a slate of names nominated by the committee to fill trustee vacancies on Southern Baptist boards, agencies, and com-

missions.

The committee, chaired by Joe Atkinson of Rogers, Ark., is made up of two persons from each state convention — one layperson and one in church-related vocational work. The Mississippians are: Joe Strahan, First Church, Beaumont; and Donald M. Crocker, layman, Salem Heights Church, Laurel.



**CONVENTION IN THE ROUND** — More than 17,700 registered as messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's 135th meeting at the Hoosier Dome June 9-11 in Indianapolis. (BP photo by Van Payne)

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 116

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 19

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor ..... Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor ..... Anne McWilliams  
Advertising Manager ..... Evelyn Keyes  
Editorial Associate ..... Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager ..... Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper ..... Betty Anne Bailey  
Proofreader/Secretary ..... Shannon Simpson  
Editor Emeritus ..... Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Owen Lusk, Jackson; Randy Turner, Natchez, vice-chairman; Tommy Tutor, Clarksdale, chairman; ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, secretary, Jackson.  
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.  
Send news, communications, and address changes to The Editor, Baptist Record P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 18, 1992

Published Since 1877

## Messengers take strong stand on moral issues

By Art Toalston & Louis Moore

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Messengers to the 135th Southern Baptist Convention drew a line in the sand against growing American tolerance of homosexuality, siding with Vice President Dan Quayle for traditional family values.

Meanwhile, messengers assigned a study of potential conflicts between Christianity and Freemasonry to the SBC Home Mission Board.

Conservatives maintained their grip on the convention, again electing a slate of like-minded convention officers, with Houston pastor Edwin Young as president, and tapping controversial conservative leader Paul Pressler for a key trustee board.

Nearly 18,000 messengers at the June 9-11 meeting in Indianapolis' Hoosier Dome steered clear of much of the rancor of many SBC meetings since the start of the conservative resurgence in 1979. Words of rebuke for past strife among Southern Baptists, however, were voiced in an address by outgoing Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks.

In a historic vote with virtually no opposition, messengers endorsed an SBC constitutional amendment declaring churches

approving homosexual behavior "not in friendly cooperation" and thus not eligible to send messengers to annual convention meetings.

Quayle, who has sparked national debate over moral values for bemoaning TV's "Murphy Brown," accepted "the scorn and laughter" of "the cultural elite" in addressing the SBC's opening session.

"Talk about right and wrong, and they'll mock us in newsrooms, sitcom studios and faculty lounges across America," Quayle said. "Moral values are what the American people care the most about. This is what I say about the media elite, I wear their scorn as a badge of honor."

Introducing Quayle, SBC President Morris Chapman thanked the vice president for his support of moral values. "Thank you for standing up for the unborn who cannot stand up for themselves. Thank you for raising the conscience of this nation to the importance of the family."

In assigning a Freemasonry study to the Home Mission Board, messengers rejected a motion to form a convention-wide ad hoc committee to investigate the secret

fraternal group. An estimated 14% of SBC pastors are or have been Masons, according to one denominational study.

HMB President Larry Lewis voiced disappointment in an interview after the action. "Any position we take — either pro Masons or against Masons or neutral — will generate a certain amount of ire and wrath and thus hurt missions," he said. The HMB nevertheless will do as messengers instructed, he said.

The Freemasonry issue was placed before the convention by Larry Holly, a Beaumont, Texas, physician and former SBC Sunday School Board trustee who had circulated several thousand copies of a 58-page booklet arguing that the god of Freemasonry ultimately is Satan. Holly said he does not oppose Masons being church members, but believes the SBC should offer local churches informational help in not accepting Masons in positions of leadership.

Also, in an apparent reference to Masonry, the Committee on Resolutions presented and messengers approved a caution that Baptists "refrain from participation" in "any association which conflicts" (See ISSUES on page 8)

## Laurel native Young issues call for healing as SBC president

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Edwin Young, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said it's time to "put down the guns and go fishing again."

The road to healing in the SBC controversy is through evangelism and missions, Young said at a news conference shortly after his election on the first day of the convention's June 9-11 meeting in Indianapolis. Young is pastor of Second Church in Houston.

"We need to put a kingdom goal out there and say to all who can rally around that, 'Come on Southern Baptists, we're ready to move forward.'"

Young, 55, said he believes he can be a bridge-builder by appointing persons to serve on key committees, "seeking wisdom and input from everybody," including institutional leaders.

The Laurel, Miss., native said Southern Baptists need to involve more blacks, Hispanics, and ethnic language groups in leadership roles. Young's 18,000-member congregation has about 1,500 ethnic members.

Young said he does not believe in ordaining women but does believe in the development and use of all members' spiritual gifts "inside God's Word."

Another positive healing step, he said, would be to do away with "pejorative labels" such as fundamentalist, moderate, and liberal.

"I'm a Southern Baptist, Bible-believing preacher. Let's throw away all those labels."

Young said his church gives between 2 and 3% to the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' fund for national and international missions and ministries. The Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, reported in February Young's church gave 2.35% of its receipts to the Cooperative Program, based on the Uniform Church Letter.

"We will seek to raise our gifts to missions for all causes," Young said. He said churches can double their gifts to missions by applying "spiritual goals" to personalize missions giving.

Personal involvement in missions is necessary, Young said, noting his church members are involved in numerous evangelistic missions and social ministry projects annually.

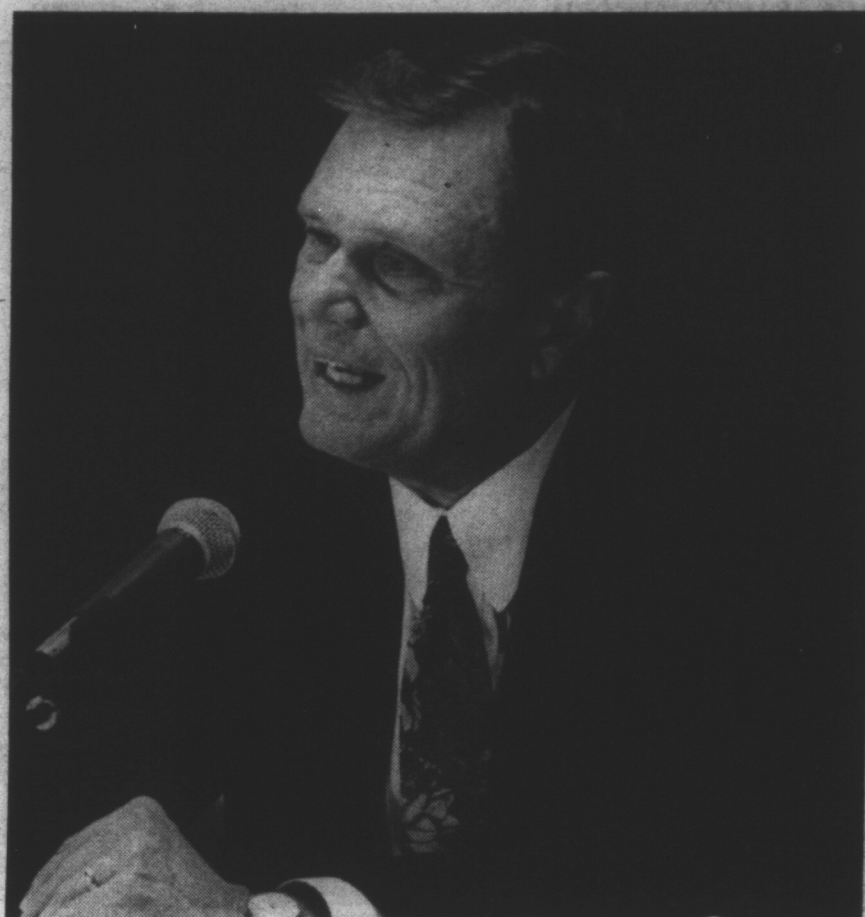
"We've got to turn our people loose to be salt, light, and leaven in the world and make our ministry valid," he said.

"I'll do whatever I can to lift up Christ around the world," he said.

Concerning family values, Young said Southern Baptists need to have Christian homes that model Christian families. Young introduced his wife Jo Beth and their three sons, who are in the ministry.

He said he agrees with the convention's vote earlier not to seat messengers from two churches that have affirmed homosexual relationships and ordination of homosexuals.

Young shared the platform at the press conference with his presidential race opponents, Jess Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Chatsworth, Calif., and Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga.



**NEW SBC PRESIDENT** — Edwin Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, talks at a news conference after his election June 9 as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBC met at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis. (BP photo by Van Payne)

## Stance on homosexuality: constitutional action

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — After declining for almost 150 years to take action against Southern Baptist churches on faith and practice issues, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis approved a constitutional amendment declaring churches approving homosexual behavior "not in friendly cooperation" and, therefore, not eligible to send messengers to annual convention meetings.

The amendment had been passed June 8 by the SBC Executive Committee, and will also require approval by SBC messengers at the 1993 convention in Houston.

Joe Reynolds, a Houston, Texas, layman and chairman of the bylaws workgroup which proposed the constitutional amendment, said the group elected the route of amending the constitution rather than a motion or bylaw amendment "to send a message to the world where Southern Baptists stand" on homosexuality.

Messengers also were asked to withdraw fellowship from two North Carolina churches, declaring that their actions "in regard to homosexuality are contrary to the teachings of the Bible on human sexuality and the sanctity of the family and are offensive to South-

ern Baptists."

The amendment states that the "Southern Baptist Convention also fervently prays that these churches will respond to the teachings of Holy Scripture by rescinding their actions related to avowed homosexuals while continuing to pray for God's saving grace and healing power in the lives of homosexuals and continuing to minister redemptively to homosexuals."

The Executive Committee also voted on June 8 to return funds contributed to SBC causes by the Pullen and Binkley churches in North Carolina since Oct. 1, 1990, an action not requiring ratification by SBC messengers. Approximately \$2,200 has been identified as gifts from the churches to SBC causes. Exact accounting is difficult because Southern Baptist churches channel gifts to SBC causes through state conventions.

Executive Committee Member Larry Otis, a layman from Tupelo, Miss., said he favored withdrawing fellowship from the churches and returning their contributions but opposed amending the constitution.

"A constitutional amendment is not necessary," Otis said. "Opening the constitution is a serious matter."

## May CP gifts fall one percent

Mississippi Baptist churches gave \$1,440,065 through the Cooperative Program in May, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

That amount, added to that given in the first four months of the year, total \$8,929,878. This is \$92,244 (or 1.02%) less than that given in

the first five months of 1991.

The pro rata budget, or the amount needed monthly to reach the 1992 budget of \$21,588,435, for January through May, is \$8,995,181. This means that giving is \$65,303 (or .73%) behind the pro rata amount.

Cooperative Program gifts go to Mississippi, national, and worldwide Baptist causes.



# Messengers vote to sever final ties with BJCPA

By Linda Lawson

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—Final ties between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs were severed June 9.

Messengers to the SBC's annual meeting voted to end the 50-year relationship with the Washington-based religious liberty organization of 10 Baptist bodies.

Convention messengers in 1991 ended SBC funding of the BJC, which had been the subject of controversy among Southern Baptists in recent years.

At one time, Southern Baptists provided more than 50% of BJC funding.

Messengers also defeated a substitute motion calling for binding arbitration to settle a dispute with the BJC over a \$300,000 capital fund. Instead, messengers approved recommendations from its Executive Committee expressing appreciation for the arbitration proposal, authorizing payment of interest from the fund to the BJC, claiming the principal for the SBC and authorizing

the Executive Committee to use the principal as it deems appropriate.

In a news conference after convention action, BJC General Counsel Oliver Thomas said he would recommend that his board file suit in Washington against the Southern Baptist Convention.

Noting that the BJC board includes 60 members from 10 Baptist bodies, Thomas declined to predict what the board would decide. "I think it will be a very difficult decision," he said.

The controversial fund was authorized by messengers to the 1964 SBC meeting for a building to house the BJC, the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, and the Baptist World Alliance. Over the years, the funds were held by the Southern Baptist Foundation and more than \$600,000 in interest was paid to the BJC.

Countering the BJC's contention that the \$300,000 belongs to them, Executive Committee member Rex Terry, a layman from Fort Smith, Ark., said the money was not a gift

to the BJC.

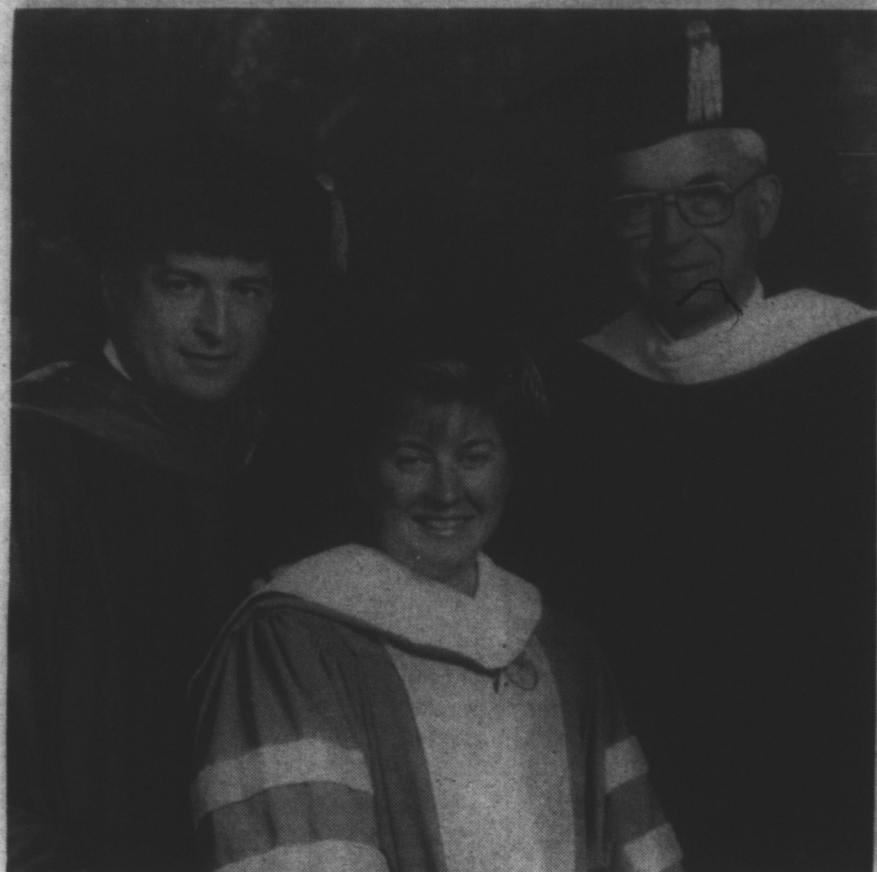
Thomas said BJC attorneys believe they would win a lawsuit, in part because the fund account was in the name of the BJC, which also made investment decisions.

However, Executive Committee General Counsel Jim Guenther maintained the SBC has controlled the fund. "The only reason the BJC has received the interest is because the SBC had said it would go to the BJC."

In a show-of-hands vote, Executive Committee Chairman David Hankins, a pastor from Lake Charles, La., estimated the vote was approximately two to one with an "unusual number of abstentions."

In other recommendations from the Executive Committee, messengers adopted without discussion a 1992-93 Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$140,200,395, a reduction of 0.36 percent from 1991-92. They also adopted a 1992-93 SBC operating budget of \$4.2 million.

Lawson writes for BSSB.



## Observe Father's Day June 21

**FOLLOWING FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS** — J. Ralph Noonkester (right), president emeritus of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, poses for a Father's Day photograph with son Myron (left) and daughter Lila (center). Following in their father's footsteps, both Myron and Lila have excelled in the academic world they know so well. Myron holds a doctoral degree from the University of Chicago and is chairman of the Department of History at William Carey College. He will spend the summer of 1992 conducting research at Oxford and Cambridge universities in England. Lila holds a doctor of musical arts degree from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, and serves as head of the Voice Department of Lander College in Greenwood, S. C. Myron is a member of his father's Sunday School class at First Church, Hattiesburg. Lila is a frequent soloist at the church on her trips home.

## Executive Committee affirms relationship with WMU

By Linda Lawson

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee affirmed its historic relationship with Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary to the SBC, stating their action was based on the WMU constitution's preamble.

The preamble specifies WMU will collect mission funds "to be disbursed by the boards of the Southern Baptist Convention" and disclaims "all intention of independent action."

The action came in response to a motion at the February meeting of the Executive Committee by Gibbie McMillan of Baton Rouge, La.,

asking the Executive Committee to recommend that messengers to the 1992 SBC "invite Woman's Missionary Union to initiate legal steps to become an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention rather than remain as an auxiliary to the Convention."

As an agency, WMU would have its trustees elected by SBC messengers and would be subject to all guidelines and policies of SBC agencies.

WMU also has issued an invitation to meet with SBC leadership as part of a new self-study, according to a May 19 Baptist Press article.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union honored Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, and heard national WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien say enough is enough to those who led the 15-million-member denomination through a 12-year controversy.

Speaking to more than 2,500 men and women at the WMU annual meeting June 7-8 in Indianapolis, O'Brien drew applause on several occasions and a standing ovation at the end of her remarks.

"No longer can we put missions on the back burner while the pot of denominational enmity and dissension boils over," O'Brien said. "It is enough. No longer can we be silent when we see anger and distrust tearing the heart out of our denomination."

"It is time to confront our brothers with our impatience, with divi-

siveness, with our refusal to play little games when there are those dying in sin because of our lack of faithfulness. It is enough."

WMU has earned the right to be heard in the missions arena, O'Brien said. "We have demonstrated our faithfulness to the missions cause in many notable ways, not the least of which is by raising \$1.7 billion for the evangelization of the world."

It is time, once again, for WMU to speak up and to confront those people making decisions affecting the work of Southern Baptist missions around the world, she said.

"If the money and energies spent on the intrigue, the altercations, spreading seeds of hate and discord, and the assembling together of mass forces for wars of votes — if all of this had instead been applied to the support of missionaries bearing Christ's name, spreading seeds of hope and love,

today there would be many more names written in the Lamb's book of life," O'Brien said.

Parks, who has been involved in foreign missions 38 years, was cited in a resolution of appreciation for his "example as a servant leader, with a passion for missions, a burden for winning the lost, and a zeal for rallying others to the missions causes."

The WMU executive board announced the R. Keith Parks Scholarship Fund with an initial endowment of \$25,000.

Also, Parks and his wife, Helen Jean, were given a quilt made by Southern Baptist foreign missionaries and Brazil Baptists. In appreciation for the quilt and Parks, participants at the annual meeting in Indianapolis gave \$3,047 toward the 1992 Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions.

Doyle and Scott write for WMU.

## Pressler survives challenge to leadership, wins FMB trustee post

INDIANAPOLIS (ABP) — Paul Pressler, the most powerful figure in Southern Baptists' fundamental-conservative movement, turned back the most serious challenge to his leadership June 9 by easily winning election to a trustee post at the Foreign Mission Board.

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis defeated a substitute nominee, despite the fact most top leaders of the fundamental-conservative movement were opposed to Pressler's nomination. The election was described by some in the movement as a struggle for

control of the movement's direction.

Pressler was nominated to the post by the SBC Committee on Nominations, even though he recently completed seven years' service on the powerful SBC Executive Committee. Leaders of the fundamental-conservative movement, most of whom were elected to SBC leadership with Pressler's support, said allowing one person to serve so long on two key boards could reflect badly on the movement, which was built on the premise of returning power to mainstream Baptists.

The margin of victory for Pressler

was estimated at two-to-one by many observers, including key Pressler supporter Paige Patterson of Dallas.

But Pressler described the victory as "overwhelming" and complained that a Baptist Press news release downplayed the vote margin and cast him in a negative light.

In a post-election confrontation with Baptist Press director Herb Hollinger in the SBC newsroom, Pressler reportedly threatened to have Hollinger fired over the story. Pressler was an outspoken critic of Baptist Press while on the Executive

Committee, which oversees the SBC news service and fired its director and editor in 1990.

A revised version of the story was later released, correcting what Hollinger conceded were some inaccuracies. The story used Pressler's estimate for the margin of victory, four to one.

After Pressler's nomination to the FMB post in April, seven top leaders of the fundamental-conservative movement — including at least four recent SBC presidents — advised Pressler to decline the nomination during two conference calls with the

Houston judge.

During the conference call, which was first reported in Associated Baptist Press, Pressler said he would consider declining the nomination. The leaders said later they would not oppose Pressler's nomination on the floor.

"There was a great deal of propaganda and erroneous information that was disseminated by Associated Baptist Press in an effort to discredit me," Pressler said after his election. "And I am absolutely amazed to get somewhere between 75% and 85% of the vote...."



# SBC messengers speak through 15 resolutions

By Mark Wingfield

INDIANAPOLIS (ABP) — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting expressed their opinion on 15 issues through resolutions June 9-11.

SBC resolutions are non-binding statements that reflect the opinion of a majority of messengers attending that convention. All 15 statements offered by the convention's resolutions committee passed with little opposition.

The resolutions are:

— On God the Father. The resolution notes that "God is a Spirit, beyond any human gender" but declares God "revealed himself to us as Father." It calls on "all Christians to remain faithful to biblical language concerning God, understanding that the revelation of God as Father is central and essential to Trinitarian faith."

— On the Cooperative Program. The resolution states that "entities related to the convention have a binding responsibility" to support the denomination's unified budget

and urges those entities and their employees "to maintain support of the Cooperative Program and avoid any conflict of interest, real or perceived, which would be occasioned by any participation with any organization, program or meeting which would compromise support of the Cooperative Program." The apparent target was the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a moderate-conservative organization that allows churches to bypass the Cooperative Program.

— On autonomy. The resolution affirms the autonomy of Baptist churches, associations, and conventions but claims there is a "responsibility to maintain the integrity and scriptural discipline of every Baptist body in terms of faith, practice, membership, and programs, thus protecting the witness and purity of the church and denomination."

— On religion in public schools. Although not explicitly calling for government-sponsored prayer, the

resolution notes some Supreme Court decisions "have been greatly misunderstood and grossly misapplied...to mean that the United States Constitution prohibits voluntary prayer and Bible reading in America's public schools." It commends the recent trend of the Supreme Court to move from a "strict separationist" doctrine to an "accommodationist" doctrine of religious liberty and calls on the U.S. Congress to expand the Equal Access Act "to maximize the free-exercise rights of public school students."

— On voluntary associations. With veiled references to Freemasonry, the resolution calls on Christians to avoid membership in any group "which conflicts with clear biblical teaching, including those teachings concerning the taking of oaths, the secrecy of activities, mystical knowledge or racial discrimination."

— On Boy Scouts. The resolution supports the Boy Scouts of America for refusing to allow homosexuals to serve as Scout leaders.

— On condom distribution. The resolution condemns distribution of condoms in public schools and calls on schools to implement "abstinence-based educational programs" instead.

— On fetal-tissue experiments. The resolution asks Congress to sustain the Bush administration's ban on research using fetal tissue from elective abortions, claiming such research is unethical and allows "aborted babies to be exploited for scientific and commercial purposes."

— On TV morality. Without mentioning Vice President Dan Quayle or his criticism of the "Murphy Brown" sitcom, the resolution says TV viewers are "bombarded with themes, plots, images and advertisements which promote and glorify sexual promiscuity, violence and other forms of immorality." It calls on Christians to "express outrage" to television networks and others for this "misuse of the public airwaves and cable access."

— On euthanasia and assisted suicide. The resolution speaks against euthanasia and assisted suicide and opposes efforts to designate food and water as "extraordinary treatment" that can be withheld upon request by a dying person.

— On religious freedom for all. The resolution calls on the President Bush to influence Middle East nations and others "to provide genuine religious freedom" for Christians.

— On the Lord's Day. Linking the "moral breakdown in our society" with disregard for the Sabbath, the resolution advocates "proper use of the Lord's Day to strengthen families and give proper recognition to God as Creator."

Wingfield is news director, WESTERN RECORDER, Kentucky.

Thursday, June 18, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



**MISSISSIPPIANS ATTEND RA UNIVERSITY** — Four Mississippians attended the Brotherhood Commission's Royal Ambassador University at Rhodes College in Memphis May 28-31. The four were (from left) Linda Wruk of Southaven, Phyllis and David Lutz of Senatobia, and Terry Steele of Tupelo. RA University offered training led by Brotherhood personnel and representatives of SBC missions agencies in conferences covering the full range of Royal Ambassador activities and programs. (Photo by David Nester)

## Gulfshore family enrichment retreat to be held July 6-9

An annual Family Week, provided at Gulfshore Assembly by the family ministry section of the Discipleship Training Department, is scheduled for July 6-9. Families may enjoy four days of togetherness in recreation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and participate in enrichment activities planned for every age group. The retreat is made possible by Cooperative Program gifts. Single parents and their children are welcome.

Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday will be open to families for activities of their choice. Conferences of interest to adults are offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Preschoolers, children, and youths will engage in learning and inspirational activities while adults are in conferences, general worship, and study sessions. A cook-out will be held Tuesday evening.

Macklyn Hubbell of New Orleans Seminary is the general speaker for the week. Ray Wells, family ministry director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, will address the theme "Families Reaching Families," and lead a conference for church and associational family ministry leaders. Other conference leaders are Carl Dickerson, Ron Mumbower, Keith and Barbara Fulton, Paul Jones, Beth Holmes, and Cary Worthington.

## George H. Gay dies in Florida

George H. Gay, a Meridian native, died June 2 in Chipley, Fla. He was 81.

The Meridian native received his education at Mississippi College and Southern Seminary.

Gay pastored the Okolona, Ripley, and Marks congregations in Mississippi, as well as churches in Alabama and Florida. He also served as recording secretary for both the Mississippi Baptist Convention (14 years) and the Florida Convention.

## Quayle challenges Baptists to stand with him on morals

By Scott Collins

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Vice President Dan Quayle brought his message of moral values to messengers at the 135th meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in what he described as an effort to gain support from the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Speaking to more than 15,000 messengers at the Indiana Hoosier Dome, Quayle, who has been at the center of debate about values since criticizing the TV comedy "Murphy Brown," called on the SBC to join him in what he said is a fight against the country's "cultural elite."

"My friends," Quayle said, "we need to have a discussion among

ourselves on the importance of moral values. It's time that we Americans speak out for what we believe in and what we stand for. It is time we Americans stand up for our values, stand up for America, and say that America is great because of our people and our values."

Quayle said it is important to speak out about moral values because, "If America ever lost its moral vision, it would cease to be America. We would become a soul-less and divided nation, a nation under siege instead of a nation under God."

Collins writes for Southwestern Seminary.

## Not to disgrace a brother...

By Jack Colvin

Psalm 69:5-6

The words of those verses seemed to leap off the pages as I read them. They had a ready application for my life. What an indictment it is for Christians to disgrace our Lord and cause a brother or sister to stumble. We need not look to fallen television personalities, but look at ourselves as we go about God's work.

Recently I was visiting a dear saint and asked her if she had talked with Mrs. X about a Sunday School matter. She replied, "Oh no, they are always against everything." Unfortunately, she was right. "May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me."

The other prong in the verses is how we affect those who are seeking to know the Lord. Being a Christian carries with it an awesome responsibility with eternal significance. It has been reported that Mahatma Gandhi was moved by the teachings of Christ, and might have become a Christian if he had ever met one living the truths he had found in the New Testament. There is no way of knowing the influence his conversion could have had on India and the world.

May my prayer be as the Psalmist's, that my life would not disgrace a brother in Christ or cause a would-be follower to miss the opportunity to know Jesus Christ as Lord.

Colvin is a member of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and serves on the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Colvin

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

**CHURCH FURNITURE**  
For Quality and Low Prices  
Oak — Pine — Veneer

Wallace Fey

NEW AND USED

1-800-898-0551

**OLD BIBLES REBOUND**  
A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.

"Internationally known specialists"

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.**  
Box 305-C — Greenwood, Miss. 38930

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

**Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery**

Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843  
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

**We remodel & paint**



# Mission group's tactics questioned by SBC leaders

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP) — Questions are being raised about the enlistment and fund-raising tactics of a North Carolina-based ministry currently recruiting Southern Baptist college students for a summer missions program in Spain.

Encounter with Christ, a self-described nonprofit religious and educational organization based in Cary, N.C., has been on Baptist college campuses in Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, North and South Carolina, and Indiana recruiting students for a "Summer Mission Outreach" during the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

A promotional flyer published by the organization said the five-week outreach July 6-Aug. 11 will involve the students in sharing their faith, assisting in a sports ministry with Spanish children, and teaching Spanish church members how to witness and disciple new Christians. The flyer also said students will attend training seminars on witnessing, Scripture memorization, and other topics.

The promotional piece, however, contains some false information, according to Barry Sneed, a youth specialist in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department.

Sneed's picture and title is printed on the flyer and he is listed as a

professor and speaker for the summer event. Sneed, however, said he has no plans to attend or participate and never gave his permission for Encounter with Christ to use his picture for promotional purposes.

Sneed said he had received a packet of information from Encounter with Christ, adding the materials he read on the group indicated their doctrinal beliefs were sound. He never heard from the group again, though, until he learned last week his picture had been used on their promotional flyer.

Sneed said a representative from Encounter with Christ called the office while he was out of town on a field service assignment and asked his secretary to send a photograph of Sneed because he had agreed to be involved in their summer outreach program.

"My secretary just figured it was a regular field service assignment so she sent them the photo, but I never gave them permission to use it and I never agreed to be involved in the program," Sneed explained.

Carolyn Ortega, co-founder and trustee of Encounter with Christ, said the use of Sneed's name was "a misunderstanding." She said her secretary thought Sneed had agreed to speak at the summer out-

reach but that Sneed apparently did not receive a letter that would have confirmed the agreement.

To clear up any confusion about alleged Sunday School Board sponsorship of the project, Student Ministry Department director Charles Johnson sent a letter to all state directors of student ministries April 22. In the letter, Johnson urged state directors to notify all BSU directors that Encounter with Christ's summer program "is not a program of the student ministry department summer missions program."

Questions also have surfaced over Encounter with Christ's fund-raising techniques for their 1992 Summer Outreach.

According to Ortega, Encounter is asking students who agree to go on the mission trip to Spain to secure 30 sponsors, each of whom would give an initial donation of \$135. All of those funds would be used to pay the students' trip expenses, she said.

The sponsors also are asked to give an additional \$300 during the next year (\$25 a month). Of the \$750, 20% is to go to Encounter with Christ for "administrative costs and business expenses," Ortega said, with the remaining funds being distributed to students on a monthly basis.

Alford writes for BSSB.

## Korean Baptist evangelism team finds rich harvest, Central Asia

By Jim Burton

CENTRAL ASIA, Commonwealth of Independent States (BP) — An 18-member Korean Southern Baptist evangelism team from six states discovered multiple opportunities for ministry in Central Asia.

More than 450 decisions for Christ were registered in nine meetings by the team during their 10-day visit, said Tommy Sohn, pastor of the First Korean Baptist Church, Dallas.

The team came to Central Asia at the request of D.K. Moon, pastor of a Korean Baptist church. Founded Feb. 28, 1991, it has a

baptized membership of 188 with attendance between 300 and 350.

There are an estimated 400,000 Korean-Russians in concentrated areas of Central Asia, Moon said. Former Soviet General Secretary Joseph Stalin forced thousands of Korean ethnics from the Far East in 1937 to Central Asia.

"People are spiritually very hungry. They have not heard anything about God," said Mrs. Lee. "Their attitude is very sincere and humble. They do not complain about long worship hours."

The success of the Korean Southern Baptist evangelism team

is indicative of the missions spirit that pervades Korean-American Baptists and Baptists in South Korea, said Dan Y. Moon, Brotherhood and language missions director for the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.

"Koreans are people of prayer," Moon said. "God has given them a tremendous burden for lost people. More and more we are seeing Koreans enter difficult areas of the world to live and preach the gospel, not just to Korean ethnics, but among all people groups."

Burton writes for Brotherhood Commission.

## Koreans dedicate seminary campus

TAEJON, South Korea (BP) — The Korea Baptist Theological Seminary dedicated a new 55-acre campus May 26 on the outskirts of Taejon.

The new campus for the largest Baptist seminary outside the United States provides a student center, dormitories, athletic field, classrooms, offices, and a library.

The seminary's first class of 49 students met in an old building in 1954, as Taejon began to rebuild after the Korean War. Today it has nearly 1,500 students and 1,800

graduates. It awards diplomas, bachelor's, and master's degrees and doctorates in theology, religious education, and church music.

Park Seh Jik, chairman of the 1988 Seoul Olympic organizing committee, commended the seminary during the dedication ceremony for its role in training men and women for ministry. The prominent layman said Baptists are now the fourth-largest Christian denomination in South Korea.

"We have not yet received the gold medal," Park said. "But we're

still trying."

The first seminary president, Southern Baptist missionary John Abernathy, was followed by missionaries Ted Dowell and Al Gam-mage. The first Korean president, Chong Chin Hwang, was named in 1977. Nine years ago Hu Xin, the current president, took office and today oversees a staff of 80.

Eighty-five percent of the school's operating budget now originates in South Korea. The seminary plans to raise its total financial support among Koreans by the year 2000.



## PRCC breaks ground for BSU center

Baptist Student Union, Pearl River Community College, Poplarville, held ground breaking June 4 for the new BSU center at an estimated cost of \$90,000 using volunteer labor. Pictured, left to right, are Bob Rogers, BSU pastor advisor; John Grant, BSU faculty advisor; and Michael Ball, BSU director. Those interested in contributing labor or funds may contact Ball at (601) 795-8581.

## 'See you at the pole' set for September 16

ATLANTA (BP) — This year's "See You at the Pole," a nationwide youth prayer rally at school flag poles, is set for Sept. 16, and Southern Baptist churches will receive participation commitment forms in June.

Last year, 180,000 youths participated in the first national rally which is held before school starts and includes prayer for youth issues, said Dean Finley, Home Mission Board youth evangelism specialist.

See You at the Pole is a student movement to carry out the biblical mandate, based on Joel 2, to do something about crisis in a culture, Finley said.

The crisis, Finley said, includes alcohol and drug abuse, sexuality, suicide, and crime. He noted one out of three teenagers is a heavy drinker, 3.3 million alcoholics in America are teenagers, half of the

1 million teenage pregnancies in the nation end in abortion, 5,000 teenagers die each year by suicide, and 28% of America's serious crimes are committed by people under age 18.

See You at the Pole is not a demonstration, a protest, or a patriotic rally, Finley said. It is a united declaration of a Christian's dependence on God as a solution to the crisis facing teenagers, he said.

In addition to youth meeting at the flag pole, churches are asked to dedicate a "Wailing Wall" for youth during their Wednesday services on Sept. 16. The wailing wall will include pictures of local students as a reminder for youths to pray specifically for their friends.

Also, youths are asked to wear T-shirts with Christian messages on each of the five Wednesdays in September.

## Communicator newspaper ceases publication: costs, "apathy" cited

MOORE, Okla. (ABP) — The Southern Baptist Communicator, the latest in a series of newspapers promoting the fundamental-conservative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, will cease regular publication because of low subscriptions and reader "apathy."

Subscriptions to the newspaper have not kept up with production costs, according to an article in the May-June issue.

"Further, since the (1991) Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, the perception by many has been that the struggle (in the SBC) is settled and therefore the assumption 'We no longer need a conservative paper.' This erroneous perception has allowed for apathy to curtail renewal of subscriptions."

The newspaper began sporadic publication in March 1990, with the first issue promoting the candidacy of Texas pastor Morris Chapman, who later was elected to two terms as SBC president.

From the beginning, the Commu-

nicator was mailed free to approximately 40,000 churches and individuals, funded by contributions from churches and others. The newspaper went to a subscription basis in August 1990, but only about 4,000 subscriptions were sold.

According to the latest issue, which includes a front-page endorsement of fundamental-conservative candidate Edwin Young of Houston for SBC president, the Communicator will resume publication "when the need arises and the demand is deemed strong enough."

The newspaper was edited by Fred Powell, associate pastor of First Church of Moore, Okla., and a former associate of two-time SBC president Charles Stanley of Atlanta. Powell recently was nominated as chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business by the SBC Committee on Nominations, which was chaired by his Oklahoma pastor, Bobby Boyles.





## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



### Tommie Hamill, 100, remembers her part in the 75 Million Campaign

Perhaps following the instructions of Proverbs 3:5-6 didn't cause Tommie Hamill to live to age 100, but it certainly served as a guideline along the way:

*"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."*

To her, Christian stewardship of life included proper stewardship of money. From the time she was baptized in 1907 at age 15 at Sturgis Baptist Church until now as a resident of Manhattan Health Care Center in north Jackson, she has been a tither.

"In 1919, I became postmaster at Sturgis," she remembers, "starting on a salary of \$100 a month. That same year I pledged \$50 to the 75 Million Campaign." She approved of that campaign which would free Southern Baptists from debt and which would underscore the value of Baptists working together to accomplish common purposes, and thus set the stage for beginning the Cooperative Program in 1925.

She remained postmaster at Sturgis for 44 years. (Postmaster is correct, she said — not postmistress. Nowadays she might be called a postperson?)

Trustworthy with money, she served as treasurer of Sturgis Baptist Church for 50 years, as well as teaching Sunday School there at least 40 years.

Three parties in Jackson cele-

brated her 100th birthday on May 17. A Sunday School class from Sturgis Church, where she is still a member, gave her a party. Then she had a party with her family — her daughter, Mary Mitchell, member of Northminster Church, Jackson, and other relatives. (Her two sons are deceased.) She has four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. "Then," she said, "there was the big party," to which about 100 came.

Born Tommie Atkins in Choctaw County, one of a large

family, she soon moved to Sturgis, where she stayed until she was 95. Her stepfather, N. Q. Adams, was a Baptist minister. Her husband, Lonnie Hamill, died 30 years ago. Asked where she met Lonnie, she answered, "I just always knew him."

Her years have been lived in obedience to the command in Malachi 3:10 to "bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse." As a result, God has poured out on her many blessings, one of them the gift of long life.



Tommie Hamill of Sturgis now lives at the Manhattan Health Care Center, Jackson.

### Miss. moderates lay plans for state organization

Rebecca Wiggs of Jackson, a member of Northminster Church has been named chairman of a steering committee that has been set up to "explore and study the purpose, nature, and structure" of "a Mississippi entity of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

Joe Tuten of Jackson, retired pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, announced this appointment by mail May 26 to selected persons in the state. Tuten was chair of a meeting of 61 Mississippi Baptists that was held during the General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship earlier in Fort Worth, Texas.

Other members of the committee are James F. Yates, vice chair, retired pastor of First Church, Yazoo City; Marvin Bond, professor at Mississippi State University, Starkville, former missionary to Hong Kong, and member of First Church, Starkville; Dick Conville, professor at USM and member of University Church, Hattiesburg; and Greg Snowden, Meridian, attorney and member of First Church, Meridian.

Yates is a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

The committee will make its report at a meeting Oct. 16-17 in Jackson, Tuten said. Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, will attend the meeting.

The Mississippians also nominated John McGraw, an orthopedic surgeon of Laurel, to serve on the Coordinating Council of the Fellowship. McGraw is a member of First Church, Laurel.

Other Mississippians on the Coordinating Council are Jean Bond of First Church, Starkville; Suzii Paynter of Northminster Church, Jackson; and Tuten. McGraw replaced Tom Sims, an attorney from Richton on the council.

In anticipation of the meeting in October, the title, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Mississippi, Inc., has been reserved, Tuten said. The address has been established as P. O. Box 3668, Jackson, Miss. 39207. Tuten is a member of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Communications Committee.

Thursday, June 18, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

### A special thanks to a special lady

By Tom Walden

We know that God has always had that special person for a special place at a special time. I had read "Faces & Places" and many more of Anne McWilliams' columns over the years, but not until about a year and a half ago, while searching for someone to read my writings, did I find my way to the Baptist Building.

No one could have been more kind or tried to be more helpful than this lady. She has really been a great help to me. I have been a

frequent visitor since, plus some frequent phone calls.

I will surely miss her there, but maybe we will see her and W. D. on some of these camp grounds and at some of our Young at Heart meetings at Van Winkle Church, Jackson. We enjoyed them on our trip to Bellingrath Gardens. Anne wrote an article about that trip.

God bless you in your retirement years, Anne, and good camping.

Walden is a member of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

### LONG TERM CARE

#### Protecting Your Family's Future Security for Nursing Home Care

1. Guaranteed renewable for life with inflation protection
2. Benefits for all levels of care, including alternate plan (at home protection)
3. Prescription drug benefit
4. Need determined by you and your physician
5. Discount for couples

Underwritten by PFL Life; rated "A" by A. M. Best; "AA" by Standard & Poors

For More Information:

Call TOLL FREE  
1-800-497-1821

OR

Mail to:  
Ron Jordan  
Rt. 1, Box 19E  
Ellisville, MS 39437

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



### DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

#### GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

JULY 9-11, 1992

#### "DISCIPLEALL: MAKING CHAMPIONS"

- \*AGE GROUP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES
- \*SPECIAL INTEREST CONFERENCES
- \*BIBLE DRILL LEADER CONFERENCES
- \*MASTERBUILDER WORKSHOP
- \*DAYCARE/KINDERGARTEN DIRECTORS CONFERENCE
- \*RECREATION-COACHING CONFERENCE
- \*ASSOCIATIONAL D.T. LEADER CONFERENCE
- \*OLYMPIC GAMES/BONFIRE WORSHIP

Some space still available — Call/write Gulfshore 452-7261



## ISSUES

From page 3

with clear biblical teachings" on the taking of oaths, mystical knowledge or race relations.

Dallas evangelist Jay Strack was unopposed for the SBC's first vice presidency. Ruston, La., evangelist Joe Aulds won a runoff for second vice president over Glen Molette, a Pikeville, Ky., pastor. Three others were nominated on the first ballot.

Lee Porter, registration secretary the past 15 years, won 61.9% of the vote in a re-election race with Bob Bender, an Ada, Okla., pastor. Porter is assistant to the pastor and administrator of a Baptist church in Panama City, Fla., and a former Sunday School Board editor. Nashville businessman David Atchison was re-elected recording secretary without opposition.

Young, 55, has been pastor of Second Church since 1978 when it had 4,431 members. It now has more than 18,000 members and led the SBC with 1,007 baptisms in 1990.

In initial remarks at a news conference, Young called for healing among Southern Baptists and unity in evangelism and missions, saying it is time "put down the guns and go fishing again." He said he intends to seek "wisdom and input from everybody" in SBC committee appointments and to involve more Hispanics, blacks, and other SBC ethnics. He called for an end to "pejorative labels" such as fundamentalist, moderate, and liberal.

Asked about his church's giving channeled through the Cooperative Program for SBC national and international missions and ministries, Young said it gives between 2 and 3% to the CP and that he intends to lead his church "to raise our gifts to missions for all causes."

A motion to substitute another Texan for Paul Pressler's nomination as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board failed by a wide margin on a June 9 hand vote. Pressler is a Texas appeals court judge, longtime leader of the SBC conservative movement and a member of First Church of Houston.

Committee on Nominations member Stan Coffey, an Amarillo, Texas, pastor, urged Pressler's approval. "This is a man who sacrificed so much of himself in bringing Southern Baptists back to their historic roots," Coffey also noted Pressler's missions involvement, including preaching in 20 foreign countries.

Pressler, who concluded two terms on the Executive Committee last year, was asked by some SBC leaders prior the convention to decline the nomination. Executive Committee vice chairman Fred Wolfe, a Mobile, Ala., pastor, said in an interview, however, the group told Pressler they "trusted the leadership of the Lord in his making the decision."

The foreign missions report by Parks, who is retiring in October as FMB president over differences with conservatives, stirred numerous interruptions of applause and numerous walkouts.

"We are killing our worldwide witness," Parks stated. "The most distinctive characteristic of Christianity is love. We are not demonstrating love even to the whole Southern Baptist family, and we so desperately need to do so."

Missions giving by local churches of 1, 2 or 3% of their budgets will not "support our primary purpose nor challenge us to get serious" about missions, Parks said.

SBC President Morris Chapman, voicing an opposite view in his address, said Southern Baptists are a convention "of destiny, ... (not)

because of our own worthiness ... (but) destiny by God, who has worked mightily among us for his own glory."

The SBC is not fragmented as some have said because the gospel is preached, Chapman declared. But, he said, "To those churches who join a new movement and move away, we offer no word of censure, rebuke or retribution. Know this: We will not be angry but we will not be deterred from the mission God has called us to accomplish for his glory."

In an apparent caution regarding the emerging Cooperative Baptist

Fellowship of SBC moderates, one of 15 resolutions approved by messengers urged SBC entities to avoid "any conflict of interest, real or perceived, ... by any participation with any organization, program or meeting which would compromise support of the Cooperative Program."

In other business, a motion to limit annual salaries of all SBC employees to no more than \$100,000 and two motions to place limits on compensation packages for employees who leave SBC agencies were referred to "every institution of the Southern Baptist

Convention."

Two motions were referred to the SBC Annuity Board. The first asks the board to reduce the cost of its annual medical deductibles for individuals and families participating in the convention's group health insurance.

The second, jointly referred to the Sunday School Board, urges the formation of a study committee to look into the possibility of providing disability coverage and pastoral care for pastors recovering from "stress burnout."

Toalston writes for BP and Moore writes for CLC.

## Just for the Record

A reception in honor of Leon and Kay Young will be held June 28, 2-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Church, Meridian. Young is the retiring director of missions, Lauderdale Association.

The 18th season of Carey Dinner Theatre opened June 11 with the musical "The Apple Tree." It will continue through June 27. The second production of the season will be a musical revue, "Encore<sup>2</sup>," which runs July 7-18. "The Apple Tree" is staged and choreographed by Glen Matthews, a William Carey College gradu-

ate, with musical direction by Howard Kever, acting chair of the Winters School of Music at Carey. The production is not performed on Sundays or Mondays. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. in the O. L. Quave Theatre on the Hattiesburg campus of Carey College, and the performance follows. Admission is \$15. Reservations may be made by calling 582-6221.

The Duncan Sisters of Brandon will be in concert at Byram Church June 28 during the 11 a.m. worship. James D. Whittington is pastor, Byram Church.

## Lottie Moon Offering gifts total 81.4 million dollars

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts for 1991 totaled about \$81.4 million dollars — an increase of about 2.5% over 1990 for the annual Southern Baptist foreign missions offering.

Receipts for 1991 fell about \$2.6 million short of the \$84 million

goal. The shortfall means missionaries will have that much less money to spend on capital needs, such as cars and houses overseas. The goal was projected to finance 46% of the Foreign Mission Board's \$184 million budget for 1992.

Croll writes for FMB.

GET MORE FOR YOUR MONEY  
WITH

**PREFERRED RISK MUTUAL**  
INSURANCE COMPANY

- ◆ In-House Claim Service
- ◆ No Fault Medical & Loss Of Income Protection
- ◆ No Depreciation On New Car For 90 Days
- ◆ 15% Premiere Discount For Violation & Accident-Free For 3 Years
- ◆ Special Rate For Nondrinkers And Nonsmokers
- ◆ 20% Good Student Credits

## AUTO • HOME • LIFE • HEALTH • CHURCH

Contact Your Local Agent



JACKSON  
Jerry Kirk  
371-1846



SOUTHAVEN  
Gay Hudson  
342-2034



TUPELO  
Eddie Sullivan  
844-4065



PEARL  
Andy Eaton  
939-9300



MERIDIAN  
Sandra Little  
482-8868



JACKSON  
Ruth Granger  
371-1846



HATTIESBURG  
Ronnie Hill  
544-6112



SOUTHAVEN  
Allen Parnell  
342-2034



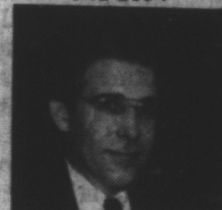
COLUMBUS  
Carol Craven  
327-6896



GULFPORT  
Kent Johnson  
868-6800



TUPELO  
Talmadge Smith  
842-0009



NEW ALBANY  
James Rhea  
534-2108



JACKSON  
Faye Channell  
371-1846



TUPELO  
Perry Smith  
842-0009



MERIDIAN  
Mike Vick  
482-8868



TUPELO  
Ronnie Sullivan  
842-0009

"We Built A Career Just For You"

Career opportunities available in all areas of Mississippi. Call 932-2339



**PREFERRED RISK MUTUAL**

• A Member of Preferred Risk Group

Home Office: West Des Moines, Iowa

America's nondrinkers insurance company!





# Staff changes

Robert Dottley has announced his retirement from the pastorate of Second Church, Greenville, effective June 15. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary and was in the pastorate for 35 years. Dottley is available for full or part-time staff positions and can be contacted at 2476 Hummingbird Drive, Greenville, MS 38701 or call 332-0757.



Dottley

Brewer Church, Shannon, has called Lee Gardner as pastor. He graduated from New Orleans Seminary May 15 with a master of divinity degree. He previously served Jones Chapel Church, Nettleton. Kermit Brann has been serving as interim pastor at Brewer Church since October, 1991.



Gardner

## Marcus Alexander will celebrate 50th year in the pastorate

Calvary Church, Braxton, will honor Marcus Alexander on Sunday, June 28, to mark the 50th anniversary of his being in the pastorate. He retired from First Church, Flowood as pastor in December 1986. Following an interim pastorate at First Church, Mount Olive, he became pastor at Calvary Church in January 1989 and has served there since that time.



Alexander

Alexander, who was born at Jayess and his wife, the former Juanita Parish of Prentiss, have

Marty Wilson, previously pastor of Gooden Lake Church, Belzoni, has been called as pastor of Lakeview Church, Leland, effective June 14.

First Church, Coffeeville, has called Gerald W. Beard and Mrs. B. Gerald (Jean Breedlove) Fly as part-time youth and music directors, respectively.

Keith Dowden of Many, La., has been called as pastor of Ethel Church, Attala Association. Dowden is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary, and previously served Calvary Church, Natchez.

Matt Miley of Hattiesburg has been called as minister of music and youth, College Hill Heights Church, Oxford. He is a graduate of Mississippi State and is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the University of Mississippi. Jimmy Williams is pastor, College Hill Heights.

Randy Riley has accepted the call as associate pastor in education and outreach, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. He comes to the position from First, Gulfport.

been married for 43 years. They have four children, Laraine Kennedy, Baton Rouge, La.; Lydia Rhodes, Flowood; Marcus Alexander Jr., Flowood; and Daniel Alexander, Ridgeland; and five grandchildren.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Thirty-four years of his pastorates were in three churches, Calvary Church, Columbia; Ann Street Church, Mobile, Ala.; and First Church, Flowood, the latter for 17 years.

The celebration at Calvary Church, Braxton, on June 28 will include a special recognition service in the morning, beginning at 10:30, and a reception in the afternoon from 2 until 4:30 p.m.

## Clarke College alumni hold rally

Clarke College was officially closed on May 15, but the spirit of Clarke continues in the hearts and lives of the alumni.

A rally has been called by the alumni officers for Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Lott Fine Arts Building on the Clarke

campus. Purposes of the rally are to determine strategy to be taken for use of the facilities and for a show of support for any endeavor made on behalf of Clarke.

All alumni and friends are encouraged to come, bring a picnic, and participate.

## School scheduled for pastors, wives

Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., and Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will lead the worship services at the third annual School for Pastors and Wives at Mississippi College, Aug. 6-7. For more information, call or write the Office of Continuing Education, Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058, (601) 925-3831.



Smith



Henry

Thursday, June 18, 1992

## Butler earns two degrees from MBTS

One with ties to Mississippi was among 103 individuals receiving degrees during recent commencement exercises at Midwestern Seminary.

Joseph A. Butler, a native of Laurel, received both the master of divinity-correlated and the master of religious education degrees from the seminary. Currently, he serves as youth minister at First Church, Independence, Mo.

He considers Pinelake Church, Brandon, his home church.

## Revival dates

Sebastopol (Scott): June 21-25; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Wayne Long, Pearson Church, Pearl, evangelist; Jeff Parker, First, Morton, music; David Sartin, pastor.

Bethel, Hazlehurst: June 21-26; regular Sunday services; 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily; Scott Thomas, pastor, Parkerson Church, Crowley, La., evangelist; Herbert Greer, music director; Glen Mullins, pastor.

Cranfield (Adams): June 21-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Jack Evans, Ebenezer Church, Greenbrier, Tenn., evangelist; Larry Cotten, Siloam, Meadville, music; Rusty Bowlin, pastor.

First, Coffeeville: June 21-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon and 7:30 p.m.; Clarence C. Cooper Jr., Emmanuel Church, Grenada, evangelist; Robert Shaw Jr., West Marks Church, Marks, music; Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.

Calvary, Eupora: June 21-26; Sunday, homecoming 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds; revival begins 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Joey Faulk, Mt. Zion Church, Eupora, evangelist; Tony Faulk, pastor.

Ebenezer, Bassfield: July 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Alfred Jones, evangelist.

## CLASSIFIED

RATE: 50¢ per word, \$5.00 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**CHURCH PEW CUSHIONS:** Manufactured in our plant. For free estimate contact — Emmons Brothers, P. O. Box 186, Meridian, Miss. 39301. Since 1899. Phone (601) 693-4451.

For just \$25 see the PASSION PLAY and stay at Keller's Country Dorm Resort for groups of 12-160, in Eureka Springs, Ark. Air-conditioned lodging, swimming, \$9 tickets, cheeseburger cookout, dessert and breakfast — all included! Call 501/253-8418 today!

**FOR SALE:** Used pews fair condition; portable baptistry good condition. Contact (601) 563-9429.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## Names in the news

Billy R. Folkes of Seminary has been named director of continuing education at Mississippi College

and assumed his duties June 1. He replaced Dorothy Carpenter, who retired after serving the college since 1978. Folkes joins Mississippi College after serving for the past 15 years in various positions at the University of Southern Mississippi. His most recent position was director of administration for the College of International and Continuing Edu-



Folkes

cation at USM: Folkes has served as chairman of deacons at both Seminary and Wesson churches and is currently vice-moderator of the Covington County Association.

David Satterwhite, former pastor and director of missions has retired. He is available for pulpit supply, revivals, and interims. He can be contacted at 1010 Pinehill Dr., Carthage, MS 39051 or call 267-8740.

Victor C. Johnson, former pastor of Pine Grove, Simpson County, is available for interim and supply. Address: P. O. Box 613, Florence, MS 39073, phone (601) 845-8561.

## Rally

for

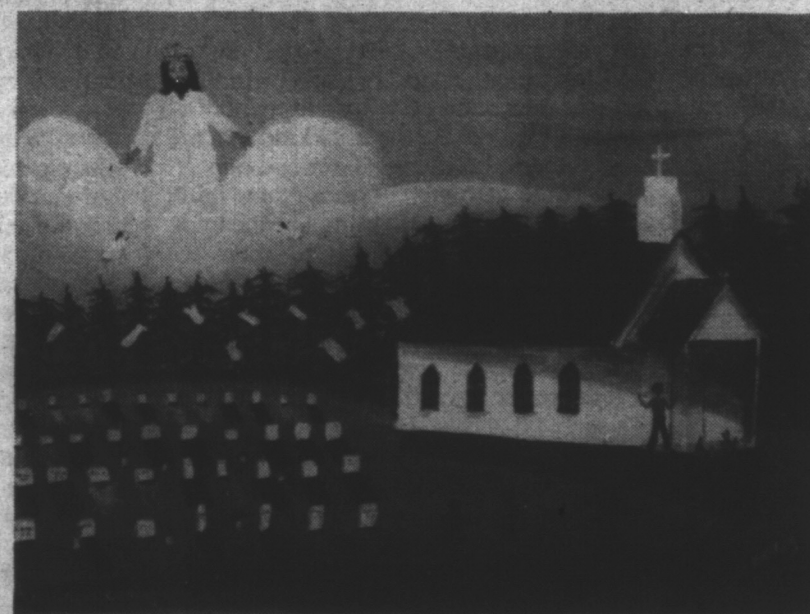
Clarke College  
Alumni & Friends

Lott Fine Arts Building  
Clarke College

June 20, 1992  
10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.



Proposals for the future use of Clarke College facilities will be discussed and will be presented later to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



## PRINTS FOR SALE

"The King is Coming" by the Cotton Patch Artist, Zelle Manning, permanent gallery artist, Down Town Gallery in New Orleans. Picture is 11"x14", color; cost: \$29.95 plus \$2 shipping.

Mail order to: Rt. 1, Box 223, Morton, MS 39117; telephone 732-6631. Allow two weeks for delivery.

## 15 PASSENGER CHURCH VANS

We have the largest selection of 15 passenger church vans in Mississippi - new and used.

DUB HERRING FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY  
DUB HERRING CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH-DODGE

We rent vans by the day, week or month.

**Call the Hotline 1-800-776-5497**

Ask for DONNIE COUNTS-Fleet Manager, or write to 600 Hwy. 11 South, Picayune, MS 39466



## LIFE AND WORK

### Rich, yet poor



By Lola M. Autry  
Revelation 3:14-22

Billy Graham, in his book, *The Secret of Happiness*, calls the search of the world for material wealth "the eternal quest for the fountain of happiness." James Reston in *Pulpit Digest* suggests that America needs more shortages: "Prosperity is what's doing us in." Jesus in Revelation 3:17 tells the Laodicean church they have become so materialistic they don't even know their spiritual condition.

What is the answer? Simply put: Only as we invite Jesus Christ into our lives can we have full, joyful, contented lives. Having "things" never makes for lasting peace. That comes from a life committed to Christ.

**The risen Lord: Truthful and trustworthy (v. 14).** As in all the other letters dictated to the church by Jesus this one begins with the Lord identifying himself. He names four of his characteristics: 1. He is the Amen; 2. a faithful witness; 3. a true witness; 4. the beginning of the creation of God. He is the authority.

**Accusation: Lethargic faith (vv. 15-17).** Mahatma Gandhi was once almost convinced to become a Christian — until he lived with a family who were members of an evangelical Christian church for seven months. When he saw the casualness of the attitude toward the cause of Christ, heard them complain when asked to make some sacrifice for him, and realized their general apathy toward him, Gandhi decided against the Christian religion.

Jesus finds fault with any person or church who is lukewarm. He will have no part of them (v. 16). They are poor, blind, and naked, and don't know it. The church in Laodicea was wealthy in worldly things. They had plenty of money. They probably had a satisfying social life. They apparently considered themselves "right at the top" as a self-sufficient church. They thought they had all they needed. Poor wretched, miserable church — Jesus says they make him sick.

**Exhortation: Open the door to Christ (vv. 18-20).** Jesus has the answer to all our problems, even to people and churches like the Laodiceans. Jesus counsels them to accept the golden gift of a new heart of fellowship with Christ, that they may have true riches, the only kind that are everlasting. He exhorts them to be cleansed through him and to be clothed in the white garments of purity that signify a true belonging to him. He advised them to use the eye-salve of self-examination that they might truly see their condition. How long has it been since you personally and your church collectively have used the eye-salve of self-examination that they might truly see their condition? How long has it been in your life and the life of your church since the counsel of Jesus to the church at Laodicea has been applied?

Jesus issued a call to all of us. He explains why. He loves us. Through love he rebukes and chastens. Through love for us he pleads for our committed lives to him. Through love he desires us to be ardently active, devoted, eager for him. He admonishes us to repent. Through love he points out our faults. He minces no words. He lets us know how he despises our behavior. But he still loves us! He stands at the door, waiting for us to knock and to enter. He will not invade the privacy of the human heart, but he will be available when we seek entrance through him to salvation. We can, by receiving him as Lord and Savior, be partners with him in fellowship.

**Promise: Life in the kingdom (vv. 21-22).** There is a cathedral in Milan, Italy with triple doorways. Over each doorway there is an inscription. One reads: "All which pleases is but for a moment." Another: "All that which troubles us is but for a moment." Over the middle one is written: "That only is important which is eternal." When sin is overcome through repentance and faith in him, Jesus grants us eternal life with him. He says, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

How well do we listen to the words of Jesus?

Autry lives in Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church.

## BIBLE BOOK

### Paul's final plea



By Charles Nestor  
2 Corinthians 12:14-15, 20; 13:2-11

Paul concluded this letter with a tone of hopeful tension. He assured the Corinthians that any remaining problem would be handled when he came to see them. However, he hoped there would not be any difficulties left by then.

**I. Promise not to be a burden (12:14-15).** The first time Paul came to Corinth was during his second missionary journey. He was there for 18 months teaching, preaching, and building a church. During that time, many of them professed faith in Christ. Such a relationship should have formed a bond that was unbreakable. There were many difficulties to follow. The problems had to be handled. In the process, their relationship with Paul became strained. Paul was planning a third visit to clear up some of the problems. He hoped that this letter would suffice and that the visit would be a pleasant one.

He was accused of trying to get their money. Paul wanted them to know this was not the case. He explained that he felt a parent-child relationship to them; he felt responsible for them. Paul earned his living as a tentmaker. This meant he did not have to depend on the gifts of others. Paul made sure these false accusations did not sever his relationships with the Corinthians. Neither should we allow rumors or false statements to damage our relationships with fellow believers.

**II. Concern about what he would find (12:20).** Paul was deeply concerned that he would find many in the church who had not repented of their sins. He feared the people would be fighting among themselves: envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults. This would be tragic for the church fellowship. If he found such conditions, he would deal with them promptly and forcefully. The church should be a place where harmony and love flow freely. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. The challenge today is for the church to be the family of love Christ intended it to be.

**III. Warning that he will deal with problems (13:2-4).** Paul was one who kept his promise. He had warned them to get their lives in order. When he arrived he would take action to discipline those who continued to live in sin. It appears that some people in the church wanted more proof that Paul was God's man. He reminded them that the real proof of ministry is not the loudest voice nor the outward signs. Rather, it is whether the power of Christ is at work in their lives. He reminded them that his model for service had always been Christ. Paul emphasized that Christ's obedience led to his suffering death, but the power of God is revealed in the resurrection. Paul affirmed the same power was at work in him and the Corinthians.

We are to model our service after Christ. The proof of our lives will not necessarily be in the outward signs. The real test is whether Christ is at work in our lives.

**IV. Encouragement for the Corinthians to improve (13:5-10).** Paul challenged them to examine their own lives. He literally told them to test themselves to see if Christ were in their hearts. The words he used all pertain to the testing of metals to determine purity and quality. He hoped the test would be positive, and that they would know he was a true apostle. He was willing to become weak if it would help them to be strong. He prayed for them to be strengthened and to mature in Christ. He did not want to have to use his authority when he came to visit them.

We are to continue to grow in the Lord, for the purity and quality of life to increase. It is wise to make a spiritual check-up frequently. If there is unconfessed sin in our lives, we need to repent.

**V. Closing and benediction (13:11).** Paul concluded with some challenging words. He encouraged them to rejoice in Christ in spite of all the problems. The challenge was and is to be complete in Christ. He called upon them to live in unity and peace. The blessing offered was that God was with them.

We live in a world of imperfections, the result of sin. In spite of that, God calls us to walk with him and mature in our Christian faith. If we do, the God of love and peace will be with us.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

## UNIFORM

### Disturbed by grace



By Bobby Williamson  
Jonah 3-4

It is a certain fact that God's forgiving love and desire to save goes beyond the bonds of human understanding. One of the hardest concepts for anyone to come to grips with is that God's love for us is not dependent on what we do, but upon what he has already done in Jesus. It is also interesting to note that it is not God's judgment that brings us to salvation, but God's love and grace. Ultimately we will find that Nineveh was saved because of the love and grace of God.

**I. Jonah obeys God (3:1-4).** "And the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." These first two verses from the third chapter of Jonah once again teach us a very valuable principle. Our God is a God of second chances, a new start, and a fresh beginning. God is persistent in his calling. What has God called you to do? Maybe you have felt that you missed your opportunity. There is a possibility that if you will listen, maybe God is calling you a second time to the task. God is persistent. Are you listening? In verse 3 we find Jonah obeying God. "So Jonah arose, and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord."

God did not give up on Jonah, and he has not given up on you. There is still time for each of us to be obedient to God in the task that he has called us to do. It is hard to believe, but once again in our Southern Baptist churches it is time for our leadership and nominating committees to begin their work for the coming church year. Maybe in years past, you have run from God in the area of service. This year let each of us commit to listen to the persistent call of God, and in those areas that God has gifted us and equipped us, let us say "yes" when asked to serve. Just as Jonah responded positively to his second chance, each of us can and should do the same.

Jonah obeyed God, went to Nineveh, and warned the people of the impending judgment. It is the love and grace of God that gave the people of Nineveh another chance.

**II. The people of Nineveh repent (3:5-10).** In these verses we find the people of Nineveh repented and God withheld his judgment. Isn't it wonderful to know that God's message of love can penetrate even the coldest heart? It is amazing that many times the very ones that we expect never to respond to the touch of God are the very ones that do. God can reach down into the deepest depths of anyone's life and save him if he is willing to repent and turn to God.

**III. Jonah resents God's mercy (4:1-4).** Jonah was displeased and he was angry. Why? Because God decided to withhold his judgment. Jonah asked the Lord to take his life. It is very apparent that Jonah did not like the people of Nineveh.

There is much we can learn from this experience in the life of Jonah. A major principle that each of us should apply to our lives is that we should be compassionate even to people we dislike. We may dislike them because of their lifestyle, culture, or other reasons, but we should never stop loving them in Christ. The day we met Jesus we gave up the option of choosing those we want to love. We are to love with an unconditional love, as Jesus loves. Jonah reminds us that some people prefer for their enemies to be punished rather than forgiven. Our ultimate desire should be reconciliation with God, not punishment.

**IV. God rebukes Jonah (4:5-11).** While Jonah sulked, God caused a gourd to grow up and shade him. Because Jonah was distressed when the plant died, God rebuked him for caring more about the plant than about the people of Nineveh. Two principles we might learn here:

1. Jonah's childish attitude in sulking over Nineveh's repentance should cause each of us to repent of our childish ways, and 2. Jonah's greater concern for the plant than for the people of Nineveh should motivate each of us to care more for people than for material things.

Those without Christ need to repent of their sin and receive Christ as Savior without delay. Believers need to reidentify with Christ and commit their lives anew to him.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



## The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

ACCREDITED



P. O. Box 27,  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

March 1, 1992 -  
March 31, 1992

### MEMORIALS

Mr. Claude Lott  
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Prine  
Miss Vera Lowry  
Mrs. Ina A. Lowery  
Annette Maddux  
Ms. Lula M. Cummins  
Patsy Diffey Manna  
Mrs. Rose T. Jackson  
Mr. Willie Martin  
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Hamberlin  
Mrs. Ada Mae Hilderbrand  
Mr. Travis McAdory  
Mrs. J. V. Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. W. D. McAlpin  
Sr. Adult SS, Shady Grove BC  
Mr. Henry B. McClellan, Sr.  
Miss Sue Power  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack B. Yates  
Joseph N. McClung  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam T. Carter  
Mr. Carl McDonald  
Mr. & Mrs. Harris B. Peyton  
Mr. Clinton McGehee  
Dr. Jack Causey  
Ladell McGregor  
BDO Seidman  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Noland  
Mr. Rachel McLendon  
Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Lamb  
Collin McNease  
Dr. & Mrs. W. L. Wiser  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Cooper  
Jr.  
Claude McNeill  
Pilgrim's Rest Baptist  
Church  
Mrs. McRae  
Mrs. Mary Frank & Larry P.  
Bryan  
Tommy Melton  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Roy Kennedy  
Mrs. Irene Milam  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Aultman  
Mrs. Evelyn Mitchell  
Betty Jane Hunt Circle, FBC  
Grenada  
Mr. Bob Mize  
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Lewis  
Michael Mockbee, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. King  
Mrs. Ethel Wright Mohamed  
Mrs. Alyce R. Clark  
Dr. & Mrs. T. Scott McCay  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Thigpen  
Dr. Ben J. Moore  
Dr. Rebecca Sue Legge  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Stanley  
Jessica Brooke Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Little  
Ashley Morris  
Mr. Maimon Leslie Morris  
Calhoun Baptist Pastor's  
Conference  
Mr. Bert Morse  
Mrs. Mable McBay  
Mr. Milton Morton  
Philathea SS, FBC Columbus  
Mrs. Percy Morton  
Mrs. Daniel Kelly  
Al Clyde Mosley  
BW, West Gulfport BC  
Alene Moss  
Mr. Guy Branscome  
Mrs. Clayton Mullens  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Case  
Camille Gale Murphy  
Ms. Mary S. Pennington  
Mrs. L. W. Murphy  
Men's SS, FBC Amory

Mrs. J. H. Myers  
Ms. Mary Jane Lyle  
J. D. Nester  
Mrs. Hilda R. Wilson  
Mr. Albert Newsome  
Mr. & Mrs. Terr Champion &  
Wendy  
Louie Norris  
Mr. Guy Branscome  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Franklin  
T. J. Norton  
Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Williams  
Mr. Thomas O'Quinn, Jr.  
Stanton Baptist Church  
Mrs. Virginia Oakley  
Mr. Michael Rubenstein  
Edna Oden  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Brown  
Katherine Overstreet  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Brown  
Mrs. Ina Carr Pace  
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Kelly  
Carol Scruggs Palmer  
Yale Street Baptist Church  
Eunice SS, Yale Street BC  
Mr. Spurgeon Palmer  
Rev. & Mrs. Robert F. Lowe  
Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Tidwell  
Mr. Henry Parker  
Ms. Patricia Walston  
Mr. Jamison Parks  
Mrs. Gladys Frederick  
Mrs. Beulah Parks  
Mrs. Robert L. Brent  
Mr. Alan Peak  
Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Oglesby, Jr.  
Mrs. Lexie Pemble  
Mrs. E. B. Carpenter  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Mrs. Pearl Penn  
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Simmons  
Mr. Rex Phillips  
Mr. & Mrs. S. M. Dowdle  
Mr. H. A. Pickett  
Mrs. Emma P. Atkinson  
Mr. Garvin Pierce  
Mrs. T. I. Johnson  
Mr. Jeff Pigg  
Mrs. Bessie T. Parish  
Mrs. Louise Pinlon  
Mrs. Oliver W. Stubbs  
Jacob D. Rand  
Mrs. Jackie Niemeyer  
Mr. Curtis N. Raspberry  
Mr. & Mrs. James M.  
Pentecost  
Ms. Peggy Howard  
Mr. Robert E. Provine  
Mrs. Hilda R. Wilson  
Mrs. Madge Ratliff  
Mrs. Janice S. McKellar  
Mrs. Lora Rayman  
Mr. & Mrs. John L.  
Henderson  
Mrs. Raymond  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W.  
Statham  
Mrs. Margaret Reagan  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hammond  
Mr. David Richards, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Wayne Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Davis  
Reukel Roberson  
Mrs. Bobbie & Cindy  
Roberson  
Mr. James E. Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Pettiey  
Ralph Rogers  
Mr. & Mrs. David Ellzey  
Mr. A. Semmes Ross  
Mr. Wayne Hughes  
Mr. Robert Watts  
Mr. Joe Russell  
Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Parsons  
Jerry Salisbury  
Mrs. Edna Earle Coats  
Mrs. Maggie Mae Sandifer  
Mrs. Fannie Peoples

Mr. A. J. Sanford  
Mr. Marc McArthur  
Mrs. Robbie Saunders  
Mr. & Mrs. Harris B. Peyton  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Heranney Sr.  
Mr. George Schamel  
Friends of Kolola Springs  
Community  
Mrs. Hoyle R. Grant  
Mrs. Floyd Griffin  
Raymond W. Schmidt  
Mr. & Mrs. Al Shuping  
Carol Scruggs  
Geraldine Thomas  
Mr. H. V. Shackelford  
Miss Earline Woods  
Mrs. Lorraine Shanks  
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields  
Margene Shows  
Mrs. Marion Shows & Family  
Sister Flora  
Mr. & Mrs. F. A. Stephenson  
Mr. Homer Sledge, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Thigpen  
Mr. Claude Smith  
Mrs. Lucy Mikell  
Ms. Claudine Davis  
Sue Reynolds  
Mr. Luther Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. F. & Jana  
Peery  
Mrs. Bernice W. Smith  
Mrs. T. W. Walker  
Mrs. Helen Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L.  
Bradford  
Sherri Lynn Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Odie Smith Jr. &  
David  
Mr. Milton Sparrow  
Miss Mary F. Wyatt  
Rommona St. John  
Tommy Davidson  
Mary & Chuck Henderson  
Betty & Freddie Jones  
Jean & Frank Wisnoski  
Mrs. Sudie Stanford  
Mrs. T. Howard Johnson  
Col. Jim Steels  
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Polk  
Witt Stephens  
Mrs. Susan S. Jordan  
Mr. Paul Wesley Sterling  
Mr. & Mrs. P. N. Conerly  
Adult II Ladies SS, Galilee  
BC  
Mrs. Stella Stewart  
Calhoun Baptist Pastor's  
Conference  
Mrs. Sarah Sticht  
Mrs. Claudine M. Stevens  
J. D. Sturdivant  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
Myrtle S. Sugg  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
Rev. William Sullivan  
Mrs. Ruby T. Sullivan  
Mrs. Preston Tanner  
Mrs. Joe D. Roberts  
Mrs. Bessie Mae Sharp  
Mr. H. M. Austin Jr.  
Mr. Walter E. Barbee  
Dr. William Bert Thompson  
Huntcliff Homeowners  
Association  
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Bigham Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. William M.  
Dalehite  
Mrs. Nona Fortenberry  
Mrs. Anne C. Hardy  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Johnson  
Mrs. George V. Moody  
Mr. & Mrs. George E. Rogers  
Mr. & Mrs. Prentiss G. Cox  
Dr. & Mrs. Eugene I. Farr  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman O'Neal

Kelly Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. S. M. Dowdle  
Mrs. Era Cross Tindall  
Ms. Katherine Melton  
Dr. Earl Tolbert  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Pettiey  
J. T. (Bill) Triplett  
Mrs. Claudine M. Stevens  
Mr. Webb A. Boswell  
Mrs. Cecil Boswell  
Mrs. H. L. Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Young  
Virginia Tucker  
Mr. Knox W. Ross  
Mr. Leonel M. Vance  
Red One Rook Club  
Mr. J. R. Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Z. Millsaps  
Mrs. Martha Davis  
Sue McKinnon  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Spraberry  
Mr. Gus Voigt  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene  
Culpepper  
Dana Leigh Walker  
Mrs. Rebecca S. Chesteen  
Mr. Roy Wall, Jr.  
Mrs. Walton Luter Hughes  
Mr. Earl Brewer Wall, Sr.  
Mrs. E. B. Wall  
Myrtle S. Waller  
Mrs. L. L. Waller

April 1, 1992 -  
April 20, 1992

### MEMORIALS

Mrs. Jessie Aldridge  
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Hall  
Mr. Lowery Aldridge  
Thelma Bradford, Linda &  
Carlye  
Millard R. Allen  
Mr. Thomas M. Roberson  
Mrs. Ruby Allen  
Miss India Ware  
Stacey Allen  
Mr. L. A. McCoy  
Miss Annie E. Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter  
Mrs. Mary A. Thomas  
Mr. John E. Artman  
Mr. & Mrs. Hayes Branscome  
Mr. T. S. Austin  
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Cole, Jr.  
Myrtle Moss Austin  
Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Hartley  
Mr. James Bagby  
Mr. & Mrs. L. K. Bell  
Mr. Ivan Bagley  
Ms. Martha H. Ray  
Forest Baptist Church  
Mrs. Kathera Baldwin  
Rev. Billy Ballard  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack B. Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams  
First Baptist Church  
Mrs. Amos Arender  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryant Myatt  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth  
Robertson  
Grandmother of Rebecca  
Barber  
Mrs. Susan L. Wilbanks  
Mr. John G. Barnes  
Mr. & Mrs. David Ellzey  
Mrs. Mavis Barrett  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald E. Carlyle  
Mrs. Mildred Colotta  
Kitty Cooper WMU, FBC  
Indianola  
Mrs. Noel Barrett  
Miss Mary Etta Price  
Mrs. J. H. Price  
Mr. Arnold Barrier  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy French  
Mr. Henry A. Beattie, Jr.  
Mrs. John A. Crawford, Jr.  
Mr. Cullen Bethay  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter  
Jean Womack Bible  
Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Frazier  
Zane Henry Bishop  
Morgan Chapel Baptist  
Church  
Mrs. Alice Black  
Rev. Michael J. Dobrosky  
Mrs. Frances Blackwell  
Ruth SS, FBC Tupelo  
Father of Cathy Blanton  
Mrs. Susan L. Wilbanks  
Dewitt Blaylock  
Mrs. Eloise Avery  
Stacie Michelle Bradfore  
Duane, Wanda & Garrett  
Bradford  
Mother of Mrs. Larry Breedon  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook  
Mr. G. L. "Bud" Brewer  
Mrs. Marion C. Spell  
James T. (Pat) Bridges  
Mrs. Sidney B. Thornton  
Ms. Gertrude Solomon  
Mr. & Mrs. George E. Hart  
Mrs. John Kolb  
Dr. & Mrs. T. Scott McCay  
Cecil Brinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Speed  
Mrs. E. F. Tyrone & Family

Mr. J. Wilkes Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. William Gill  
Mrs. Bert Gill  
Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Magee  
George Brunt  
Williamsville Baptist Church  
Cynthia Leigh Bryan  
Mr. & Mrs. L. E. Brooks  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Jameson,  
Jr.  
Mrs. Debbie Parrish  
Anne Brooks Williams  
Mrs. Bessie Bryant  
Stanton Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Goff  
Hillard C. Buckley  
Mrs. Peggy B. Bass  
Mrs. May S. Buford  
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Dunn  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Dunn  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Locke  
Mr. Grady Bunch  
Lydia SS, FBC Amory  
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Mize  
Mrs. Bessie T. Parish  
Mrs. Thornton (Nellie) Burns  
Mrs. Jane B. Pearson  
Mr. & Mrs. L. E. McCoy  
Rev. James B. Busby  
Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Kirk  
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Hardy  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Woods  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Franklin  
Elmer Buel Butler  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
Mr. Charles Butts  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion &  
Wendy  
Walter W. Caery  
Mr. & Mrs. George A. Milam  
Mr. Bill Cameron  
Mrs. LaVonne L. Bishop  
Connie Camp  
Ms. Helen M. Garrard  
Mr. William Walter Card  
Mr. Bob Hill  
Mr. Pete Tedford  
Mr. Albert B. Carlisle  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack T. Galey  
Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Hartley  
Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Alderson  
First Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Max D. Ball  
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Dunn  
Mrs. Billy J. Gardner  
Helen Nordstrom Carollo  
Mr. & Mrs. Calton Edwards  
Sabra Ann Carpenter  
Mr. & Mrs. T. P. Boulter  
Rev. Clyde C. Carraway  
Deacons, FBC Lucedale  
Mr. N. V. Mangold  
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll E. Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. C. S. Woodruff  
Coagulation Lab. Baptist  
Memorial Hospital,  
Memphis  
Mrs. Katie Carson  
Berwick Baptist Church  
Mrs. Dorothy Robertson  
Mrs. Robbie Lea Parker  
Carson  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams  
Mr. James W. Gartin, Jr.  
Regina Carson  
Mr. Leland L. Stokes, Jr.  
Mrs. Etoy Casano  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Los  
Kamp  
James Willard Case  
Mrs. James Case  
Mrs. Julian Chatham  
Mrs. A. O. Chatham  
Mr. Gary Chittom  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams  
Mr. Albert Clark  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice  
Mrs. Edith Clinton  
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Kelly  
D. A. Cook  
Mrs. Lois C. Goodwin  
Earl Cooper  
Duke and Jonnie Manning  
Mr. Bobby Ray Cotten  
Mr. & Mrs. Percy Peeler  
Ms. Julia & Avis Louise  
Mullins  
Mrs. Terry Council  
Mrs. Bertha Matthews  
Mrs. Fred E. Kennedy  
Mr. Jodi Coward  
Ms. Sally Lee  
Mrs. Billie T. Haley  
Mrs. Mary P. Irvin  
Mr. W. A. Crabill  
First Baptist Church  
Hope Noelle Creel  
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Creel  
Sister & Brother of Mr. B. R.  
Corckett  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook  
Mr. Otis Culpepper  
Mrs. Edie Williams  
Mr. Paul Daniel  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter  
Mrs. Jenny Darnell  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams  
Betty G. Davis  
Mrs. Mary E. Sanford  
Corinne Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Ilious Grantham,  
Jr.  
Mr. R. R. Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Edmonson  
Mrs. Lessie C. Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Duane R.  
Bradford  
Mr. Ed Day  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones

Amos Dean  
Mr. & Mrs. Austin Smith  
Michael Edward Dillard  
Mrs. Ruth Bilbo  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Whittington  
Mr. & Mrs. Will Dodds  
Mr. & Mrs. Wilkins Lee, Jr.  
Mrs. Ann Dove  
Mrs. Floyd Griffin  
Brother of Mr. Harry L.  
Dubose  
Mr. & Mrs. Elliott F. Thomas  
Mr. Lewis Dubard  
Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Kirk  
Mr. & Mrs. T. W. Dulaney  
Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Dulaney  
Keith Duncan  
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Capps, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence L.  
Morris  
Mrs. Holly (Maria) Dunn  
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Elliott  
Albert D. East  
Mrs. A. D. East  
Mr. Edward W. Estes  
Mr. & Mrs. Terrell E. Wise  
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Provost  
Ernest Ethridge  
McRae's  
Mr. John H. Evans  
Ms. Martha Beavers  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Faulkner  
Mrs. Jerry Falls  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams  
Mr. Robert C. Flynt  
Mr. & Mrs. Harmon Alley  
Willie Mae Flynt  
Mrs. J. E. (Ruth) Fendren  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Chapman  
Phillipston Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Makamson  
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Peoples  
Mrs. Myrley Martin  
Fortenberry  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L.  
Dungan, Jr.  
Betty Frindik  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Armstrong  
Dan Fullwood  
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Hall  
Mrs. Helen Garner  
Glad Tidings Homemakers  
Club  
Dr. Harvey Garrison  
Dr. & Mrs. J. Harvey  
Johnston, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Meagher  
Mrs. Johnnie Mae Gilmore  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. David Ellzey  
Annie Kathleen Glenn  
Celeste Sunday School,  
Central Grove BC,  
Aberdeen  
Mrs. Annie K. Glenn  
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields  
Mr. Vincent L. Glesic  
Mrs. Frances Bryant  
Mrs. Frances Goldman  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams  
Mr. Willis Gooch  
Mrs. Howard Sessums  
Wendy Carol Goodman  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Howard  
Mr. Eurie Grantham  
Mr. Kirk Hill  
Joe Green  
Mrs. Mable McBay  
Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Green  
Mrs. A. L. Gerrard  
Mervin Guyton  
Mr. & Mrs. Arlis L. Godfrey  
Mrs. Berline Hall  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Sharp  
Mrs. Violet Mae Hall  
Ms. Louise Mounce  
Mr. Darrell Hancock  
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Hamberlin  
Mr. & Mrs. M. A. Hicks  
Mrs. Ada Mae Hilderbrand  
Mrs. Viola W. Harman  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Taylor  
James Thurman Harrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Leake  
Houston Hartzog, Jr.  
Mrs. S. L. Rogers, Sr.  
Mrs. Edith Hayes  
Wahalak Baptist Church  
Miss Idell Head  
Mrs. Clarice Edwards  
Mr. Clement O. Hearn  
Mr. & Mrs. Curt Englade  
Mr. & Mrs. John Robert  
Griffin  
Mrs. M. L. Sills  
Mrs. John Kolb  
Mr. & Mrs. Max Triplett  
Mr. M. L. Brooks  
Mrs. Mary B. Ford  
Ray Herrin  
Mrs. Mary L. Causey  
Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Farmer, Sr.  
Gaines Hermon  
Mr. & Mrs. J. U. Hendrix  
Kelly Massey Higdon  
Mrs. Gwen Ferrell-Allen  
Miss Ada Bond  
Mr. & Mrs. Herschell Gaddy  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy M. Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. William P. Strait  
J. M. Hill  
Ms. Julia Mullins  
Mother of Mrs. Leon Hill  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney R. Cook

Mrs. Sandra Hill  
Ms. Janette Anthony  
Oak Grove Baptist Church  
Mrs. Hoyt Holder  
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Kelly  
Mrs. Catherine Inez Holean  
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Dunn  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Dunn  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Locke  
Mr. Dock Holland  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil O. Holland  
Mrs. Lena Hollimam  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Dribben  
Ozro Hollingsworth  
Conan F. Whitten  
Mr. William Harold Horne  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy French &  
Family  
Noxapater Masonic Lodge  
Henry Huffman  
Ms. Nellie B. Bradley  
Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Farmer, Sr.  
Thomas Albert Hurdle  
Taylor Baptist Church  
Mr. Hugh Walker Ivy  
Hollendale Rotary Club  
Jimmy Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Mahan, Jr.  
Randy Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Craig  
Harry Hall SS, FBC  
Greenwood  
Tom Earl James  
Spring Hill Baptist Church  
Mr. James Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. David Doss  
Mr. Todd Johnson  
First Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Cordie Clower  
Mrs. Clara Johnson  
Mrs. O. R. Barrett  
Ms. Laverne Butler  
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Minter  
Mrs. Ruth V. Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. George H.  
Crawford, Jr.  
Tammy Annette Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Willis  
Mrs. Vic Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Eurre J.  
Grantham  
Mr. Guy Jones  
Wahalak Baptist Church  
Mr. Bill Jordan  
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Halfacre  
Carl Keen  
Mr. & Mrs. Burnell Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Wade H. Roberts  
Mrs. Julia Kennedy  
Mrs. Fred E. Kennedy  
Mr. Kelly Kigdon  
Miss Mary Kate Mangold  
Mr. Doc King  
Mr. & Mrs. Herma Coats &  
Christopher  
Mrs. Ollie King  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Mobley

### HONORS

Mrs. Bobby Adams  
Faith Sunday School, FBC  
Meridian  
Mrs. Maude Barney  
Galilee Baptist Church  
Mrs. Catherine Blanton  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Hammond  
Mrs. Billie Blough  
Mr. & Mrs. Eurre J.  
Grantham  
Mrs. Grady Bunch  
Lydia SS, FBC Amory  
Mr. & Mrs. C. N. Conerly  
Mr. & Mrs. P. N. Conerly  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ferguson  
Mr. & Mrs. P. N. Conerly  
Dr. John Floyd  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Lyons  
Mrs. Janie Gibson  
Alathean SS, Collins BC  
Dr. & Mrs. Mark W. Gregory  
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Fields  
Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Hancock  
Bill Rieves  
Mr. Richard Knox  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul N. Nielsen,  
Jr.  
Rev. & Mrs. Harold Lollon  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodrick Hitt  
Mrs. Ora Mae McAlpin  
Ruth Bible Class, FBC Magee  
Mr. Paul N. Nunnery  
Mr. Edgar T. Edmonson  
Mrs. Hazel C. Rodgers  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Bevil  
Eva R. Rogers  
Louise Draughn  
Mrs. Nadine Sadler  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Duck  
Mrs. Net Sasser  
Mrs. Evelyn L. Tomecko  
Mrs. Jimmie Shackelford  
Mr. & Mrs. Eurre J.  
Grantham  
Richard Sumrall  
Mrs. Louis F. Boteler  
Mrs. Janice Swain  
Ruth SS, FBC Tupelo  
Mrs. Mary Ann Swogutinsky  
Secret Pal  
Mrs. Peggy Taylor  
Mrs. Frank Shawblosky  
Tinye Tutor  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby C.  
Abraham

(To be continued)



# capsules

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN IRAN IS GROWING: TEHRAN, Iran (EP)** — The Christian church in Iran is growing secretly but steadily, according to a News Network International report. Abe Ghaffari, executive director of Iranian Christian International, said there are about 12,000 evangelical born-again Christians in Iran, about half of these converts from Islam. While any deviation from Shiite Islam allows Armenian Orthodox, Assyrian Orthodox, and Assyrian Catholic churches to meet in the open, evangelical groups that engage in evangelism often experience severe persecution. But since the hanging of the pastor of an underground church in 1990, the church in his city has grown five times. "The fear has been taken from them," said Brother Luke, an Iranian pastor living in the West. "What more can they do? If they kill you, there's nothing more they can do. When the people reach that point they are not afraid of anything."

**SBC ANTI-HUNGER CONVOCATION SET FOR MAY 1993 AT RIDGECREST: NASHVILLE (BP)** — Representatives of five Southern Baptist agencies with responsibilities for ministering to the world's hungry have called for a major denomination-wide hunger convocation in May 1993 to discuss the future of Southern Baptist work with the world's hungry. "The purpose of the meeting is to assess where Southern Baptists are now on the issue and to identify strategies for the future," the group said in a statement. The convocation will be May 6-8, 1993, at Ridgcrest Conference Center in North Carolina. Since 1974, when Southern Baptists first began collecting hunger gifts, the annual amount has grown from \$299,925 to more than \$7.8 million in 1991. Hunger gifts peaked in 1985 when more than \$11.8 million was raised. In recent years the gifts have leveled off at about \$7.7 million. Consultation participants said they hope the convocation will energize SBC giving for hunger.

**WILDMON IN STABLE CONDITION AFTER HEART ATTACK: (AP)** — Donald Wildmon, whose American Family Association has lambasted federal officials and led national boycotts against corporations for "anti-Christian views," suffered a heart attack June 9. Wildmon, 53, was in stable condition at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, where he was undergoing tests, his brother, Allen Wildmon, said. Wildmon, a United Methodist minister, was in Jackson for a conference and went to the hospital after suffering chest pains, his brother said. He suffered the heart attack about 6 a.m. while at the hospital. While he is hospitalized, a management team led by his son, Tim, will direct the 15-year-old Tupelo-based association, said spokesman Bill Swindell.

**SBC CONFERENCE OF THE BLIND SETS AUGUST MEETING: NASHVILLE (BP)** — The third meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of the Blind is scheduled Aug. 14-16 in Nashville. The conference, which will meet at the Clubhouse Inn, 920 Broadway, will hear an update on a Southern Baptist inter-agency task force appointed to work for a strengthened emphasis on ministry with blind and other disabled Southern Baptists, according to conference president Charles Couey, director of blind ministries at Park Avenue Church in Nashville. For reservations write or call Jim Keenan, Clubhouse Inn, 920 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203; (615) 244-0150.

**FREE VIDEO AVAILABLE FROM SBTS: Southern Seminary** has produced a 22-minute video, "The Call: Finding God's Will for Your Life." This video is made possible through the Lilly Endowment, Inc. It gives attention to God's call for vocational Christian service. Copies of the video are free to youth leaders who request it. Write Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, KY 40280.

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PREPARING SHAREHOLDER ACTION AGAINST K MART CORPORATION: Tupelo** — The General Board of Pensions of the United Methodist Church is preparing shareholder action against the Kmart Corporation because of that company's involvement in pornography. The denomination's pension board voted in March to file a shareholder resolution with Kmart. The resolution will express the board's concern about the role pornography plays in cheapening and degrading human beings. The United Methodist Church has a policy which prohibits investments in any company involved in the production, distribution or sale of pornographic material. Kmart sells pornography through their subsidiary Waldenbooks. "Kmart is one of the largest retailers of pornography in America," said Donald E. Wildmon, a United Methodist minister. He said that the church has millions of dollars invested in Kmart. "Should Kmart continue in the porn business, by church law that money would have to be divested," he said. Wildmon is president of American Family Association, which has been promoting a boycott of Kmart because of their involvement in pornography.

**URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEER NURSES: Cooperative Services International** has issued an urgent call for nurse volunteers to serve among the Kurdish people of northern Iraq. Nurses could serve long or short terms (period of three weeks or more). If interested, or for more information, contact Ashley McCaleb at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board WMU, (601) 968-3800; or Alvinia Michalec at CSI, 1-800-999-3113 or 1-800-999-2889, ext. 575.

## 2,605 take part in state Bible drills

Some 2,605 children and youths participated in the 1992 Mississippi Baptist state Bible drills held in 11 locations throughout Mississippi in April. That number does not include those who participated in church and associational drills but did not participate in the state Bible drills. Many of the children and young people began their memory work and Bible skill preparation as early as September 1991. These children and youths learned scriptures, books of the Bible, how to use the Bible, and doctrinal verses. The 1992 Youth Bible Drill Selection Tournament took place May 2 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. Youth qualified for this tournament by obtaining two or fewer mistakes in the previous state drills. Forty-five young people, grades 7-9, participated in the tournament at Alta Woods.

Fifty qualified for the selection tournament. Eight young people were in the final drill competition: Brian Goza, New Prospect, Lincoln Association; Jency Plunkett, Southside, Monroe Association; Wendy Dunn, First, Hattiesburg, Lebanon Association; Tasha Fillingane, Oral, Lamar Association; Vonda Flemons, Big Creek, Calhoun Association; Amy Hamilton, Ecu, Pontotoc Association; Kristy Sergeant, Rocky Creek, George Association; and Rebekah Young, Hope, Neshoba Association.

Amy Hamilton was declared the winner of the selection tournament and will represent Mississippi at Ridgcrest Assembly, July 18-24. Vonda Flemons will represent Mississippi at Glorieta Conference Center, July 4-10. The alternate is Tasha Fillingane.

The other finalists will be guests of the Discipleship Training Department at Gulfshore Assembly during the Discipleship Training Leader-

ship Conference, July 9-11.

Forty-nine young people received nine-year plaques. This plaque, with the name engraved, represents nine years of participation in Children's and Youth Bible Drills (grades 4-12). Those young people who received nine-year plaques are: Paula Barkley, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian; Chris Bell, Fredonia Church, New Albany; Nicole Bryan, Beulah Church, Decatur; Vonda Burleson, Oak Forest Church, Jackson; Cindy Callahan, Ephesus, Forest; Michael Craft, New Bethlehem, Mendenhall; Deshannon Davis, Meridian; Eric Davis, Unity, Picayune; Renee Dean, Vaiden Church, Vaiden; Brandy Dickerson, Navilla Church, McComb; Mark Dodson, Border Springs Church, Caledonia; Dabra Eubanks, Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale; Beth Foundren, Stewart Church, Stewart; Larry Goff, West Ellisville Church, Ellisville; Emily Goolsby, West Ripley Church, Ripley; Kristi Hamer, Oak Forest Church, Jackson; Brad Harrelson, First Church, West Point; Paige Harrington, Mantee Church, Mantee; Chris Hathcock, First Church, Durant; Jason Hawkins, First Church, Calhoun City; Joey Helms, Emmanuel, Greenville; Stephanie Kelley, Bethel Church, Louisville; Melanie Lawler, First Church, Carthage; Michael Loden, First Church, Plantersville; Christy Madison, Grace Church, Philadelphia; Cliff McDermont, Barton Church, Lucedale; Suzanne Medlin, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; Marcus Mobley, Nesbit; David Moore, Linwood Church, Union; Paul Nation, Hebron Church, Grenada; Jada Neal, Mantee Church, Mantee; Ginger New, Fredonia Church, New Albany; Amy O'Shea, First Church, West Point; Rhonda Phillips, First Church, Louisville;

Dionne Poveromo, First Church, Laurel; Gina Poveromo, First Church, Laurel; Angie Price, First Church, Kosciusko; Teri Rainey, Carterville Church, Petal; Jeremy Reece, Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch; Cassandra Rutledge, First Church, Kosciusko; Jonathan Simmons, First Church, West Point; Molly Simpson, First Church, Kosciusko; Marcie Smith, West Heights, Tupelo; Susie Smith, Yale Street, Cleveland; Jason Stallings, Hernando Church, Hernando; Bradley Taylor, Oak Forest, Jackson; LaChrisa Todd, Cason Church, Nettleton; Lisa Vanderford, First Church, Kosciusko; Christy Vickery, First Church, Tupelo; Clark Walker, Corinth Church, Magee; Elizabeth Webb, First Church, Amory; Holly Weeden, Fredonia Church, New Albany; Angela Wells, Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg; Susan West, First Church, Kosciusko; Mitch Wiggins, Border Springs, Caledonia; T.J. Williamson, Hope Church, Philadelphia.

Six-year trophies were awarded to 126 young people for six years for participation in State Bible Drills, grades 7-12.

During the two weeks of Bible drills, approximately 300 judges helped in the state Bible drill tournaments.

Discipleship Training Department estimates that over 6,000 people are involved in Bible drills. This number includes parents, pastors, drill leaders, family members, and the children and youth who actually participate.

The Children's and Youth Bible Drill leaflets are available by Sept. 1 each year. Anyone wishing further help may contact the Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Tournament winner Nowell goes to Ridgcrest

By Robin Nichols

The Speakers Tournament, 1992, prepared young people to present a speech of four to six minutes in length from a selected group of topics. Ten young people qualified in their associations and attended the State Youth Speakers Tournament at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, May 2. Patricia Nowell, Mt. Hope Church, Collins, Jefferson Davis Association, won the tournament and represents Mississippi at Ridgcrest Conference Center, July 18-24.

Chad Smith, Oral Church, Hattiesburg, Lamar Association, is the alternate winner. The following young people also participated: John Henderson, Emmanuel, Pearl,

Rankin Association; Crystal Boyer, First, Tunica, North Delta Association; Leigha Brewer, First, Wiggins, Gulf Coast Association; Rebecca Cooley, First, Wiggins, Gulf Coast Association; Amanda Marie Shields, First, Coffeeville, Yalobusha Association; Jennifer Donohoo, Walthall, Webster Association; Clint Crawford, Lowrey Memorial, Blue Mountain, Tippah Association; and Jason Zyla, Lowrey Memorial, Blue Mountain, Tippah Association. All participants are invited to Gulfshore Assembly during the Discipleship Training Leadership Conference, July 9-11.

Preparation, guidelines, and rules

for the Speakers Tournament are available Sept. 1 from the Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Nichols is Youth Discipleship Consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Baptist Record

005-DTM 291  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL 6-18  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203